



Holy Year of Mercy

December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are based on the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians. Though Paul identifies nine fruits, over time the Church added three more fruits of the Holy Spirit to the list. (**GOODNESS**, modesty, chastity.)



Imagine if you were chosen to experience a vision of the Blessed Mother, a saint or the Lord himself. Most of us might be quite surprised or perhaps very surprised. This reaction is not unlike many who have been chosen to receive this special grace to grow in one's personal holiness and **GOODNESS**, while bringing a divine message to the world.

In 1931, a very young Polish nun experienced a vision of Jesus. With white rays of light streaming from His heart, Sr. Faustina Kowalska found herself face to face with the Lord. Jesus asked her to write down His messages and to have an artist paint a picture of the image of Him with the words, "Jesus, I Trust You", under His image. Why? Because our Lord desires us to come to Him, to trust in Him, no matter how great our sin. He spoke over and over again to Sr. Faustina of His immense love and mercy for His children.

Sr. Faustina described herself as "Jesus's secretary and apostle of divine mercy". In her diary entitled, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, Sr. Faustina recounts Jesus's messages which invite us to know God's mercy and forgiveness as well as the **GOODNESS** of the Lord.

- *Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. Mankind will not have peace until it turns*

to the Fount of My mercy... I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy." (Diary, 699)

- *"Deeds of mercy are to arise out of a love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first, by deed; the second, by word; the third, by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy and it is an unquestionable proof of your love for Me." (Diary, 742)*

Jesus also asked that there be a day devoted to a Feast of His Divine Mercy. As recorded in Sister Faustina's diary, *"Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. (Diary 300) I want the image solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it." (Diary 341)*

In the Jubilee Year of 2000, on the Second Sunday of Easter, St. Pope John Paul II, canonized St. Faustina and declared that the Second Sunday of Easter to be known as Divine Mercy Sunday. Today, throughout the world, many of the faithful venerate the image of the Divine Mercy and pray the Divine Mercy chaplet, a devotion given to St. Faustina by Jesus who promises us *"everything if it is compatible with His will." (Diary, 1731)*

April 3 Divine Mercy Sunday	John 20:19-31	<i>Do you ever doubt the Lord's presence in your life as St. Thomas did?</i>
April 10 Third Sunday of Easter	Revelations 5: 11-14	<i>What does the Resurrection of Jesus mean to you for your personal salvation and GOODNESS?</i>
April 17 Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)	John 10:14	<i>Do you believe that Jesus, the Good Shepherd., will always protect you, even when you stray from Him?</i>
April 24 Fifth Sunday of Easter	John 13: 31-35	<i>Jesus's great commandment is to love one another as He has loved us. After reading about St. Faustina and Divine Mercy, describe how you extend Jesus's love and mercy to others.</i>

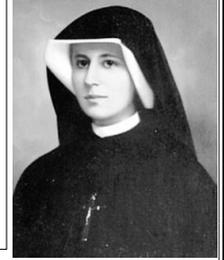


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(bold?)

“Be bearers of the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” Galatians 5: 22



BACKGROUND FOR THE RESOURCE

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are based on the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians. Though Paul identifies nine fruits, over time the Church added three more fruits of the Holy Spirit to the list (**GOODNESS**, modesty, chastity.).

What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?

We often hear the expression, “Actions speak louder than words.” The fruits of the Holy Spirit are behaviors or attitudes which help us to respond to every day situations and witness to God’s grace working within us. They are signs to others that we are believers and depend on the Holy Spirit to live a faithful Christian life.

April’s resource highlights the fruit of the Holy Spirit of **GOODNESS**.

The picture on the right hand side of the page is that of St. Faustina Kowalaska. The picture on the left hand side of the page is image of Jesus as described by St. Faustina for the artist rendering.

For more information on St. Faustina and Divine Mercy, or for Divine Mercy Chaplet, go to: www.thedivinemercy

For bulletin board ideas on **GOODNESS**, go to:

<http://www.ihmimmaculata.org/docLinks/ABCNotes.html>