



Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will



“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs.” *Luke 18:16-17*

“Amen I say to you, unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven...” *(Matthew 18:3)*

Inspiration sometimes arrives in the most unusual packages and always at the perfect moment. As we labored over the topic of our next newsletter and admittedly fell into the temptation of being overly complicated, the Lord reminded us that He is simple and even sent one of His littlest emissaries to deliver the message...

The other day after a pretty uneventful English lesson, one of our sisters invited her two new Italian students to visit Jesus in our chapel before going home. The younger of the brothers, an adorable five-year-old boy with a priceless look of surprise on his face asked, “*Is He really in there?*” After briefly explaining the miracle of the Eucharist, the sister accompanied the boys into the chapel and brought them before Jesus exposed in the monstrance. “*But where is He?*” the five year old asked. “*He’s right there,*” the sister responded, pointing to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. “*He may look like a piece of bread,*

but it’s really Jesus.” The boys flashed two big, excited grins, said “*Hello Gesù*” with their cute Italian accents, and blew Him a kiss before making the sign of



the cross and exiting the chapel.

Before leaving, the five-year-old looked at his teacher again with eyes still filled with amazement at this new, incredible news he had just learned and asked, “*So He’s there for real...like for real, for real...a real man is in there?*” “*Yup,*” the sister replied, “*It’s Jesus...really a man and really God.*” Not needing to ask or know anything else, the boy just simply smiled and believed.

With the same childlike trust that has not yet learned from the world to fear and doubt, let’s just *believe* in the love story of the cross! We all know the events of Our Lord’s Passion, but do we realize the ardent love with which He not only suffered, but *desired* to suffer for us? Do we really believe that the same Passionate Lover who poured out every drop of His blood on Calvary also lives in every tabernacle, on every altar, and in the heart of every soul in a state of grace just to remain with His children? This Triduum as we contemplate Our Lord’s Passion, let’s ask God for the grace not just to know, but to truly realize and believe. With such steadfast trust, what would we not be willing to do or endure to prove our love right back to Him?



Ready to start exercising your trust? Check out the **Divine Mercy Novena** on pages 4-8 of the newsletter and believe God is just really that good!

"I desire trust from My creatures. Encourage souls to place great trust in My fathomless mercy. Let the weak, sinful soul have no fear to approach Me, for even if it had more sins than there are grains of sand in the world, all would be drowned in the unmeasurable depths of My mercy."

(Our Lord to Saint Faustina, #300)



"And I will give you shepherds according to my own heart, and they shall feed you with knowledge and understanding..." (Jeremiah 3:15)

For over a year we anxiously but patiently awaited the appointment of a new bishop to the Diocese of San Marino-Montefeltro, praying and trusting in the work and timing of Divine Providence. On Sunday, March 2nd, the wait finally came to an end when His Excellency, Msgr. Andrea Turazzi, officially entered the diocese during a solemn mass reminiscent of the majestic apostolic lineage from which every bishop descends. With much hope and joy, we met our new shepherd after the ceremony who almost immediately begged our prayers, humbly asking, *"Please pray for me, for I don't*

know how to be a bishop."

Since then, Msgr. Turazzi has tirelessly visited the entire diocese, seeking to personally

get to know his new flock. He has even shared a couple of meals in our own home, showing sincere interest in our vocations, our monastic

life, and our individual spiritual journeys. His early entrance into the seminary at ten years old, his years of service as pastor in the parishes of Corpus Domini and Holy Family in the neighboring diocese of Ferrara, and an almost seventeen year assignment as spiritual director of its minor seminary truly moulded Msgr. Turazzi into a caring father, ultimately preparing him for this next step in God's Most Holy Will. Please help us to pray for our bishop and all the bishops of Holy Mother Church, for their personal sanctification and for the sanctity of all the souls under their care.



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"My God, grant me the conversion of my parish; I am willing to suffer all my life whatsoever it may please thee to lay upon me; yes, even for a hundred years am I prepared to endure the sharpest pains, only let my people be converted."

(prayer of Saint John Vianney recited daily by His Excellency, Msgr. Andrea Turazzi)



“So we, though many, are one body in Christ...” (Romans 12:5)

This April 12th we will be celebrating our third birthday as Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will! Without the generosity and prayers of our dear friends these past three years, we would have never been able to arrive at this point. So a great, big thank you to all of you for always putting food on our table,

keeping a warm roof over our heads, and especially for allowing us to live the vocation to which we feel called – a contemplative life of prayer. However, we do need your continued economic support.

In addition to our everyday living expenses, we continue to face the cost of renovating our home. We still need to repair the house’s cracked façade, replace several broken shingles on the roof, and purchase a new fence to enclose and protect our garden. We humbly ask you to prayerfully consider making a financial contribution toward our home renovations and/or discern becoming a monthly supporter of the Benedictine Daughters. You can make a one-time donation by credit/debit card or sign up for automatic monthly payments on the “Donations” page of our website (www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org) or simply send a check/money order to the address of our non-profit organization listed below:

The Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will

P.O. Box 1002

Hanceville, AL 35077



Be assured that all of our benefactors are remembered in a special way during each of our seven hours of daily prayers. We understand that family and work responsibilities make it impossible for most laity to spend as much time in Eucharistic Adoration as we do. But as you selflessly give yourselves to the duties that the Lord has entrusted to you, know that we are praying for you to receive the same graces and merits from each of our hours of prayer as if you were praying them yourselves. Thank you for your “YES” and for all you do to support the Body of Christ.



“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.” (1Corinthians 12:4-6)

Please pray for our dear **Sister Maureen Christine of the Divine Mercy**, victim soul who suffers greatly for our community and for all of Holy Mother Church.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Sunday, April 27, 2014

"I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners..."

With the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday, Our Lord grants us the precious gift of wiping away all of our purgatory and restoring us to our baptismal innocence if we faithfully and lovingly observe the following:

1. *Celebrate* the Feast on the Sunday after Easter (***It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter.***)
2. Sincerely *repent* of all our sins
3. Place our complete *trust* in Jesus
4. Go to *Confession*, preferably less than eight days before or on that Sunday
5. Receive *Holy Communion* on the day of the Feast (***The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.***)
6. *Venerate* the Image of the Divine Mercy (meaning to perform some act or make some gesture of deep religious respect toward it because it represents Our Merciful Savior)
7. *Be merciful* to others, through our actions, words, and prayers on their behalf

...Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy." (Our Lord to Saint Faustina, #699)



Novena to the Divine Mercy

"I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy, that they may draw therefrom strength and refreshment and whatever grace they need in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death. On each day of the novena you will bring to My Heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy...On each day you will beg My Father, on the strength of My bitter Passion, for the graces for these souls."

(Our Lord to Saint Faustina, #1209)

First Day

"Today bring to Me all mankind, especially all sinners, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. In this way you will console Me in the bitter grief into which the loss of souls plunges Me."

Most Merciful Jesus, whose very nature it is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, do not look upon our sins but upon our trust which we place in Your infinite goodness. Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart, and never let us escape from it. We beg this of You by Your love which unites You to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Oh omnipotence of Divine Mercy,
Salvation of sinful people,
You are a sea of mercy and compassion;
You aid those who entreat you with humility.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy for ever and ever. Amen.



Second Day

"Today bring to Me the souls of priests and religious, and immerse them in My unfathomable mercy. It was they who gave me strength to endure My bitter Passion. Through them as through channels My mercy flows out upon mankind."

Most Merciful Jesus, from whom comes all that is good, increase Your grace in men and women consecrated to Your service, that they may perform worthy works of mercy, and that all who see them may glorify the Father of Mercy who is in heaven.

The fountain of God's love
Dwells in pure hearts,
Bathed in the Sea of Mercy,
Radiant as stars, bright as the dawn.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the company of chosen ones in Your vineyard -- upon the souls of priests and religious; and endow them with the strength of Your blessing. For the love of the Heart of Your Son in which they are enfolded, impart to them Your power and light, that they may be able to guide others in the way of salvation, and with one voice sing praise to Your boundless mercy for ages without end. Amen.



Third Day

"Today bring to Me all devout and faithful souls, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. These souls brought me consolation on the Way of the Cross. They were that drop of consolation in the midst of an ocean of bitterness."

Most Merciful Jesus, from the treasury of Your mercy, You impart Your graces in great abundance to each and all. Receive us into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart and never let us escape from It. We beg this grace of You by that most wondrous love for the heavenly Father with which Your Heart burns so fiercely.

The miracles of mercy are impenetrable.
Neither the sinner nor just one will fathom them.

When You cast upon us an eye of pity,
You draw us all closer to Your love.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon faithful souls, as upon the inheritance of Your Son. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, grant them Your blessing and surround them with Your constant protection. Thus may they never fail in love or lose the treasure of the holy faith, but rather, with all the hosts of Angels and Saints, may they glorify Your boundless mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Fourth Day



"Today bring to Me those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know Me. I was thinking also of them during My bitter Passion, and their future zeal comforted My Heart. Immerse them in the ocean of My mercy."

Most compassionate Jesus, You are the Light of the whole world. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who do not believe in God and of those who as yet do not know You. Let the rays of Your grace enlighten them that they, too, together with us, may extol Your wonderful mercy; and do not let them escape from the abode which is Your Most Compassionate Heart.

May the light of Your love
Enlighten the souls in darkness;
Grant that these souls will know You
And, together with us, praise Your mercy.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of those who do not believe in You, and of those who as yet do not know You, but who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Draw them to the light of the Gospel. These souls do not know what great happiness it is to love You. Grant that they, too, may extol the generosity of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.



Fifth Day

"Today bring to Me the souls of those who have separated themselves from My Church, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. During My bitter Passion they tore at My Body and Heart, that is, My Church. As they return to unity with the Church, My wounds heal and in this way they alleviate My Passion."

Most Merciful Jesus, Goodness Itself, You do not refuse light to those who seek it of You. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who have separated themselves from Your Church. Draw them by Your light into the unity of the Church, and do not let them escape from the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart; but bring it about that they, too, come to extol the generosity of Your mercy.

Even for those who have torn the garment of Your unity,
A fount of mercy flows from Your Heart.
The omnipotence of Your mercy, Oh God,
Can lead these souls also out of error.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of those who have separated themselves from Your Son's Church, who have squandered Your blessings and misused Your graces by obstinately persisting in their errors. Do not look upon their errors, but upon the love of Your own Son and upon His bitter Passion,

which He underwent for their sake, since they, too, are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Bring it about that they also may glorify Your great mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Sixth Day



"Today bring to Me the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children, and immerse them in My mercy. These souls most closely resemble My Heart. They strengthened Me during My bitter agony. I saw them as earthly Angels, who would keep vigil at My altars. I pour out upon them whole torrents of grace. Only the humble soul is able to receive My grace. I favor humble souls with My confidence."

Most Merciful Jesus, You yourself have said, "Learn from Me for I am meek and humble of heart." Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart all meek and humble souls and the souls of little children. These souls send all heaven into ecstasy and they are the heavenly Father's favorites. They are a sweet-smelling bouquet before the throne of God; God Himself takes delight in their fragrance. These souls have a permanent abode in Your Most Compassionate Heart, O Jesus, and they unceasingly sing out a hymn of love and mercy.

A truly gentle and humble soul
Already here on earth the air of paradise breathes,
And in the fragrance of her humble heart
The Creator Himself delights.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon meek and humble souls, and upon the souls of little children who are enfolded in the abode which is the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls bear the closest resemblance to Your Son. Their fragrance rises from the earth and reaches Your very throne. Father of mercy and of all goodness, I beg You by the love You bear these souls and by the delight You take in them: Bless the whole world, that all souls together may sing out the praises of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.



Seventh Day

"Today bring to Me the souls who especially venerate and glorify My mercy, and immerse them in My mercy. These souls sorrowed most over My Passion and entered most deeply into My spirit. They are living images of My Compassionate Heart. These souls will shine with a special brightness in the next life. Not one of them will go into the fire of hell. I shall particularly defend each one of them at the hour of death."

Most Merciful Jesus, whose Heart is Love Itself, receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who particularly extol and venerate the greatness of Your mercy. These souls are mighty with the very power of God Himself. In the midst of all afflictions and adversities they go forward, confident of Your mercy. These souls are united to Jesus and carry all mankind on their shoulders. These souls will not be judged severely, but Your mercy will embrace them as they depart from this life.

A soul who praises the goodness of her Lord
Is especially loved by Him.
She is always close to the living fountain
And draws graces from Mercy Divine.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls who glorify and venerate Your greatest attribute, that of Your fathomless mercy, and who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls

are a living Gospel; their hands are full of deeds of mercy, and their spirit, overflowing with joy, sings a canticle of mercy to You, O Most High! I beg You O God: Show them Your mercy according to the hope and trust they have placed in You. Let there be accomplished in them the promise of Jesus, who said to them, ***"I Myself will defend as My own glory, during their lifetime, and especially at the hour of their death, those souls who will venerate My fathomless mercy."***

Eighth Day



"Today bring to Me the souls who are in the prison of Purgatory, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. Let the torrents of My Blood cool down their scorching flames. All these souls are greatly loved by Me. They are making retribution to My justice. It is in your power to bring them relief. Draw all the indulgences from the treasury of My Church and offer them on their behalf. Oh, if you only knew the torments they suffer, you would continually offer for them the alms of the spirit and pay off their debt to My justice."

Most Merciful Jesus, You Yourself have said that You desire mercy; so I bring into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls in Purgatory, souls who are very dear to You, and yet, who must make retribution to Your justice. May the streams of Blood and Water which gushed forth from Your Heart put out the flames of the purifying fire, that in that place, too, the power of Your mercy may be praised.

From that terrible heat of the cleansing fire
Rises a plaint to Your mercy,
And they receive comfort, refreshment, relief
In the stream of mingled Blood and Water.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls suffering in Purgatory, who are enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. I beg You, by the sorrowful Passion of Jesus Your Son, and by all the bitterness with which His most sacred Soul was flooded, manifest Your mercy to the souls who are under Your just scrutiny. Look upon them in no other way than through the Wounds of Jesus, Your dearly beloved Son; for we firmly believe that there is no limit to Your goodness and compassion.

Ninth Day



"Today bring to Me the souls who have become lukewarm, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. These souls wound My Heart most painfully. My soul suffered the most dreadful loathing in the Garden of Olives because of lukewarm souls. They were the reason I cried out: 'Father, take this cup away from Me, if it be Your will.' For them, the last hope of salvation is to run to My mercy."

Most compassionate Jesus, You are Compassion Itself. I bring lukewarm souls into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart. In this fire of Your pure love, let these tepid souls, who like corpses, filled You with such deep loathing, be once again set aflame. O Most Compassionate Jesus, exercise the omnipotence of Your mercy and draw them into the very ardor of Your love, and bestow upon them the gift of holy love, for nothing is beyond Your power.

Fire and ice cannot be joined;
Either the fire dies, or the ice melts.
But by Your mercy, O God,
You can make up for all that is lacking.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon lukewarm souls, who are nonetheless enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Father of Mercy, I beg You by the bitter Passion of Your Son and by His three-hour agony on the Cross: Let them, too, glorify the abyss of Your mercy...