

## Clarity on Forgiveness and Mercy

- Henry Peter

Today is the feast of St. Maria Faustina. The Divine Mercy prayer that we all know was given to us by our Lord through her...he called her affectionately his secretary. This was in the 20th century.

The last statement below is: "Jesus told St. Maria Faustina, "I expect you to show mercy always and everywhere. You cannot excuse yourself from this." The best way to show that we trust in the mercy of Jesus is to be merciful and forgiving to the people who hurt us. Are we willing to do this?"

Jesus expects us to show mercy and hence forgiveness. He expects us because we are supposed to forgive..not because of our generosity (else it will have a subtle moral superiority and the forgiveness will not last and hurt will take precedence and we will try to get away from people) but because we owe the utmost mercy and forgiveness to others....why?

Think of the parable of the unforgiving servant. ([Matthew 18: 21 - 35 verses](#))

**21:** Then Peter approaching asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

**22:** Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.

**32:** His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to.

**33:** Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?"

**34:** Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt.'

**35:** So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart."

God has forgiven us infinitely! We must do so to our neighbors....not a choice but we are supposed to...if not we will be hurting ourselves also and all around us. Forgiveness does NOT mean to say, OK , i forgive you and stay at a distance....remember the parable of the prodigal son.....the Father reinstates his son to the same status of son....reinstates the same dignity....in the same way we need to reinstate our relationships...that is true

- Agnes James

forgiveness. Humanly impossible perhaps but possible with graces from God. Have a nice day! Amen.

*Here is something I wanted to share with you. I got it from 'iMissal: Saint A Day'. It is a great Catholic resource!*

### St. Maria Faustina Kowalska

When this saint was born in Poland on August 25, 1905, her parents named her Helen. In her short life on earth, she carried out the important mission of teaching the world about the mercy of Jesus. From the time she was seven years old, Helen knew she wanted to live a life consecrated to God as a sister. When she was twenty-five, she entered the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, taking the name Sister Faustina. Her work was simple. She cooked, tended the convent garden, and answered the door. Her kindness, serenity, and spirit of recollection were remarkable. But few people knew the real depths of her spirituality. God blessed Sister Faustina with many extraordinary gifts, including visions, prophecy, and invisible stigmata. In one of the visions Sister Faustina had, Jesus appeared in a white garment. He raised one hand in blessing and touched his heart with the other. Two rays of light, one red, the other pale, spread out from his heart. The red ray represented the saving blood of Christ; the pale ray stood for the cleansing water of Baptism. Jesus said, "Have an image painted just as you see me, with the words 'Jesus, I trust in You.'" Jesus told Sister Faustina that the Sunday after Easter was to be the Feast of Divine Mercy. Sister Faustina kept a diary in which she wrote down everything that Jesus wanted the world to know about his mercy. In it, she wrote about prayer as a loving relationship with God. Jesus told her that she was his secretary. It was her special work to encourage people to trust in the limitless mercy of God. Jesus promised forgiveness and abundant graces to anyone who would honor the Feast of Divine Mercy. Devotion to Divine Mercy consists in trusting in God's goodness, loving one's neighbor, remaining in the state of grace with the help of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and receiving Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday. After only thirteen years of religious life, Sister Faustina died of tuberculosis on October 5, 1938. She was thirty-three years old. Pope John Paul II declared her a saint on April 30, 2000.

Jesus told St. Maria Faustina, "I expect you to show mercy always and everywhere. You cannot excuse yourself from this." The best way to show that we trust in the mercy of Jesus is to be merciful and forgiving to the people who hurt us. Are we willing to do this?



*Saint of the Month - St. Luke*

St. Luke was a native of Antioch, which was in Syria. Historians say that he was educated in Greece and in Egypt. St. Jerome assures us he was very eminent in his profession. St. Paul, by calling him his most dear physician, proves he was practicing medicine during his travels. St. Luke is said to have been very skillful in painting as well. Many of his pictures were of Christ and the Blessed Virgin. Theodorus Lector, who lived in 518, says that a picture of the Blessed Virgin painted by St. Luke was sent from Jerusalem to the Empress Pulcheria, who placed it in the church of Hodegorum at Constantinople. Moreover, a very ancient inscription was found in a vault near the Church of St. Mary in Rome, which says "One of the seven painted by St. Luke". Paul V said to have placed it in the Barghesian chapel in St. Mary Major.

Luke compiles his gospel from the relations of those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word. Luke's unique perspective on Jesus can be seen in the six miracles and eighteen parables not found in the other gospels. Luke's is the gospel of the poor and of social justice. He is the one who tells the story of "Lazarus and the Rich Man". Only in Luke's gospel do we hear Mary's Magnificat where she proclaims that God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; HE has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. Luke is the one who uses "Blessed are the poor" instead of "Blessed are the poor in spirit" in the beatitudes. Luke also emphasizes the Mercy of God to the sinners. We read the Prodigal Son and the woman washing Jesus' feet by her tears in Luke's gospel. Throughout Luke's gospel, Jesus takes the side of the sinner who wants to return to God's mercy.

Luke has a special appreciation for women especially Mary. He probably spoke to Mary extensively. This can be

attributed to the Annunciation, Mary's visit to St. Elizabeth and the Magnificat. Also we read only in St. Luke's gospel the Presentation and the story of Jesus being found in the temple. We have to thank St. Luke for giving us the Great Hail Mary.

Luke also is the author of "The Acts of the Apostles". Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, he set himself to learn the Good News and practice it. In year 51, soon after St. Barnabas had left St. Paul, he joined St. Irenaeus and begins the voyages with St. Paul. St. Paul mentions him more than once as the companion of his travels, he calls him "Luke the beloved physician and my fellow laborer". From year 61 to 63, he helped and supported St. Paul when he remained a prisoner in Jerusalem. During this time Luke finished "the Acts of the Apostles". He compiles the History of the Church in the first 12 chapters where he mentions the Ascension of Jesus and the general transactions which established the church. In the remaining chapters he confines himself to the actions and miracles performed by St. Paul which he himself was a witness. Luke remained with St. Paul when everyone left him, as we read in Tim 4:11 "Only Luke is with me".

St. Luke mainly insists in his gospel upon what relates to Christ's Kingdom. In accommodating the four symbolical representations, mentioned in Ezekiel, to the four evangelists, he was assigned the ox or calf as an emblem of sacrifices. His gospel is genuinely simple and conveys his sacredness. In addition we can see many hidden mysteries and loads of the riches of the Divine Love in his stories. This implies he was well guided by the Holy Spirit.

St. Hippolytus mentions that St. Luke was martyred near Patras in Achaia. In year 357, his bones were transported to the Church of the Apostles at Constantinople to be along with those of St. Andrew and St. Timothy. Eventually St. Luke's body was sent to Abbey of Santa Giustina in Padua.

- Joe Natar

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**CATECHISM CLASS and PRAYER GROUP**

Every Saturday (except Second Saturdays) at 856 W El Camino Real, Mountain View CA 94040, 5 PM



**Bro Cruz Diwakaran Message** **OCT 27 2013, 3:30 PM**  
**St. Joseph's Church Basement, Mountain View**

**November Mass** **NOV 09 2013, 6:45 PM**



**Murmuring**

Murmuring means to complain in a low tone or in private. Some people murmur twenty four hours a day, some murmur few times in a day and for some others murmuring is like eating a delicious sweet and they cannot sleep peacefully if they don't murmur about someone or something. Whether we murmur 24 hours or few times we all murmur when we don't like something. Murmuring is not new to this modern world. It has been there from the beginning. If we look at the Old Testament we read from the book of Exodus that the Israelites murmured many times. The very first time they did it because there was no water or the water was bitter to drink after three days of travel in the desert after they departed from Egypt. So they started murmuring against Moses for water. Moses cried to the Lord and He shown him a tree, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. People were happy. God did not worry about their murmuring because it was the first time they did it. God gently told them "If you will diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give heed to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases upon you which I put upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord, your healer." (Exodus 15:26)

Again they murmur against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. This time it was for bread and meat. The whole congregation of the people of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." (Exodus 16:2-3) The Lord heard their murmuring and gave them bread and meat in the form of manna and quail. Moses warned the people "Your murmurings are not against us but against the Lord" (Exodus 16:8) because he knew it was not him but the Lord guided them with the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire during the day and night respectively. This time the Lord was not happy about their behaviors as He said "How long do you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws?" (Exodus 16:28).

Again they murmur against Moses for water as they moved on the wilderness of Sin. Moses said to them "Why do you find fault with me? Why do you put the Lord to the proof?" (Exodus 17:2). As usual Moses cried to the Lord and the Lord provided water from the rock. We read from the book of Numbers chapter 16 that Korah and his followers were murmuring against Moses and Aaron. This time the Lord was very angry

as He said "Separate yourselves from this congregation, so that I may consume them in a moment" (Numbers 16:21) but Moses and Aaron fell on their faces asked God for forgiveness. But this time God did not forgive them, instead He asked Moses to tell the congregation to stay away from the wicked people. Moses said to them then what happened "As soon as he finished speaking all these words, the ground under them was split apart. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, along with their households—everyone who belonged to Korah and all their goods. So they with all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol; the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly" (Numbers 16:31-33).



People thought they were murmuring against Moses and Aaron but they forgot the Lord was guiding them in the background. So their murmuring ended up a group of people swallowed by earth. In Numbers chapter 17 we read what God told Moses to do to remove the murmuring from Him. In these days if we are murmuring against anyone or anything let us take every effort to remove it before it brings anything harmful to us and let us pray for that purpose so that the Lord can help us in our efforts.

- Leenus Rich

**WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER?**

Writing for the newsletter is a rewarding way to contribute to our BATCC community. Members are encouraged to submit articles of interest directly to BATCC Board ([board@tamilcatholic.org](mailto:board@tamilcatholic.org)). Personal transitions like marriages, babies, awards, college admissions, etc. are also welcomed. Accompanying digital photos and other artwork are strongly encouraged. A# articles, transitions and photos are subject to editing, available space, and the acceptance policy.

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உமது அன்பில் சங்கமம்...

இறைவா...,

எம் மொழியாம் செம்மொழியில்,  
உம்மை ஆராதிக்க, புகழ்ந்து பாட ,  
சீரிய சிந்தனையை கொடுத்து,  
உம் பிள்ளைகளை ஓர் குலமாய் ஒன்றிணைத்தீர்

சொந்த தேசம் கடந்த உம் மக்களை,  
தொடக்கம் முதலாய் வழிநடத்தி,  
பலன் கருதா உழைக்கும் மனதுடையோரை,  
திட்டமாய் தேர்ந்தெடுத்து,  
அபரிதமாய் ஆசீரை பொழிந்து,  
சோர்வின்றி இறைப்பணியாற்ற,  
உத்வேகம் கொடுத்து,  
உவப்புடன் இப்பத்து ஆண்டுகளை,  
நிறைவாய் கடந்து செல்ல  
உற்ற துணை நின்றீர் !!!!

உரிமை கொண்ட மக்களாய்,  
உம் வார்த்தை கேட்டு அன்புறவாட,  
மண் மனம் மாறாத,  
பேரின்ப அனுபவத்தை பெற,  
எங்களுக்கு வாய்ப்பளித்தீர்!

எத்துனை பெரிய அன்பு எங்கள் மேல் பொழிந்துள்ளீர்!!!

இறைவா...,

உம்மை துதிப்பதில் பேருவகை கொள்கின்றோம்,  
உம்மை ஆராதிப்பதில் மட்டில்லா மகிழ்ச்சியடைகின்றோம்,  
உமது நாமத்தால் கூடுவதை பாக்கியெமென நினைகின்றோம்,  
உம்மக்களாய் பணிசெய்வதில் பெருமிதம் கொள்கின்றோம்.

இனி வரும் ஆண்டுகள் அனைத்திலும் ,

உம் அன்பை இரண்டத்தனையாக எங்கள் மீது அருளும் !

விசுவாச வாழ்வை என்றென்றும் உற்சாகத்துடன் தொடர கிருபை தாரும்!!!

- கவிதா ரெமி

