



*Establishment of the  
Shrine of Divine Mercy  
of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles*

by His Excellency  
Jose H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 14, 2023  
Christ the King Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, we gather in profound reverence and gratitude for the declaration of the Divine Mercy Shrine. This sacred shrine stands as a testament to the boundless compassion and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ, whose divine mercy knows no limits.

In a world often plagued by turmoil, division, and suffering, the Divine Mercy Shrine offers us solace and hope. It is a sanctuary where the weary souls can find rest, where the broken-hearted can discover healing, and where the lost can find their way. It is a place of prayer, reflection, and renewal.

The message of divine mercy, as conveyed to us by Saint Faustina Kowalska and entrusted to the world by Saint Pope John Paul II, is simple yet profound. It reminds us that no matter the depths of our sins or the weight of our burdens, God's mercy is always there, waiting for us with open arms. As the words of the Lord to Saint Faustina echo through the ages, "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy."

Today, this shrine becomes a beacon of light, a symbol of the unfathomable love that God has for each one of us. It is a place where we can come, and experience the transformative power of divine mercy. Here, we can seek forgiveness, find strength, and embrace the promise of eternal life.

Let us also remember that the Divine Mercy Shrine is not only a place of personal solace but a call to action. As we bask in the boundless love of God, we are reminded of our responsibility to extend that love and mercy to others. We are called to be instruments of God's compassion in a world that often hungers for it.

May this shrine serve as a catalyst for acts of kindness, forgiveness, and reconciliation. May it inspire us to reach out to those in need, to heal the wounds of division, and to build a more compassionate and just society.

As we celebrate the establishment of this Archdiocesan Divine Mercy Shrine today, let us do so with hearts full of gratitude and hope. May it become a sacred place for all who seek God's mercy, a place where lives are transformed, and souls are lifted.

Let us remember the words of Saint Faustina: "Jesus, I trust in You." May this trust in God's infinite mercy guide us as we embark on this journey together.

May God bless you and all who enter this sacred place.

Fr. Juan J. Ochoa  
Rector  
Archdiocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy

## **HISTORY OF THE DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION AT CHRIST THE KING CHURCH**

The parish of Christ the King was founded in 1926 on its eponymous feast. The parish has promoted many Catholic methods of teaching and sanctifying, among them prayers to Divine Mercy. Under the pastorship of Msgr. Alexander George, parishioners at Christ the King Church began celebrating and promoting the Divine Mercy devotion in 1997. Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday of Easter), began to be celebrated by the parishioners of Christ the King even before Pope John Paul II established this feast in 2000 for the Universal Church.

Father George Bobowski of the Diocese of Lomza, Poland, was entrusted by the bishops of Poland as international promoter of the Divine Mercy devotion. It was Father Bobowski who brought greater vigor to this devotion at Christ the King Parish.

In 2003, Father Antonio Cacciapuoti, Pastor of Christ the King, together with parishioners, affirmed the value of the Divine Mercy devotion by obtaining a copy of the image of Divine Mercy promoted by Sister Faustina Kowalska.

Since the installation, the image of the Divine Mercy has drawn parishioners and the wider community, not only to seek Divine Mercy, but also to learn that they are called to be instruments of God's mercy to others.

In 2006, parishioners of Christ the King celebrated the first Divine Mercy Congress. It has become an annual celebration that brings in a great variety of speakers from different parts of the world, as well as participants from different parts of the United States.

In 2006, Monthly Divine Mercy Formation, connected to the Faustinum Association from Krakow, World Shrine of Divine Mercy, started and continues to this day..

For several years, parishioners at Christ the King recite the Divine Mercy chaplet every day before Mass.

Every Sunday, a pilgrimage image of the Merciful Jesus goes to a parishioner's house where the family is invited to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet together for a week. In addition, the diary of St. Faustina is provided to the family along with informational literature.

In 2021, Fr. Juan Ochoa, pastor of Christ the King Church, submitted a requested to Archbishop Jose Gomez, to declare the Divine Mercy Shrine.

## **DIVINE MERCY IMAGE IN CHRIST THE KING CHURCH**

In 2003, three years after the canonization of Sister Faustina, the Image of the Merciful Jesus came from Poland to the local parish of Christ the King and was venerated in a particular section of the church, which also includes the paintings of Saint Faustina and Blessed Father Michael Sopocko. The Image was blessed in Rome by Holy Father John Paul II. The Pope, himself a great devotee to Merciful Jesus, upon the request of Father Zenon Jarzabek and Father George J. Bobowski, blessed and signed the Image on April 30, 2003, during a papal audience in the Vatican. Today, the Image of Merciful Jesus is the only one Icon in the United States signed by Saint John Paul II, making the Icon a third-degree relic. The Image of Merciful Jesus, Saint Faustina and Blessed Michael Sopocko were painted by Dymitr Grozdew.

The image of the Divine Mercy was enthroned in a chapel within the Church of Christ the King on September 13, 2003. On September 14, 2003 the Chapel of Divine Mercy at Christ the King Church was blessed by Archbishop Stanislaw Szymecki from Bialystok, Poland.

In 2019 Father Juan Ochoa become Administrator of Christ the King Parish. From the beginning of his ministry, Father Juan embraced the devotion to Divine Mercy and committed himself to have declared Christ the King Church as the Shrine of Divine Mercy of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Father Juan's and all parishioners' at Christ the King efforts will be released today, October 14, 2023 by decree of Archbishop José H. Gomez.

The veneration of the image of the Divine Mercy is devotion to Our Lord Jesus Christ and his message of Divine Mercy, which was revealed to Saint Faustina Kowalska on February 22, 1931. The words of Jesus gifted to a modest nun have been heard and repeated in innumerable languages, "tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy" (Diary 699). Surrender to this devotion spreads to all who thirst for this message, especially as we have seen in Father Antonio Cacciapuoti and Father George J. Bobowski and all Christ the King Pastors, up to our current Pastor Fr. Juan Ochoa. Thanks to them, and to all who have repeated these words, this message still echoes loudly, even here in the world's movie capital, Hollywood.

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

Hoy, nos reunimos en profunda reverencia y gratitud por la declaración del Santuario de la Divina Misericordia. Este santuario sagrado es un testimonio de la compasión y el amor ilimitados de nuestro Señor, Jesucristo, cuya misericordia divina no conoce límites.

En un mundo a menudo plagado con confusión, división y sufrimiento, el Santuario de la Divina Misericordia nos ofrece consuelo y esperanza. Es un santuario donde las almas cansadas pueden encontrar descanso, donde los corazones rotos pueden descubrir la sanación, y donde los que se encuentran perdidos pueden encontrar su camino. Es un lugar de oración, reflexión y renovación.

El mensaje de la misericordia divina, tal como nos lo transmitió Santa Faustina Kowalska y el cual fue otorgado al mundo por San Juan Pablo II, es simple pero profundo. El mensaje nos recuerda que no importa la profundidad de nuestros pecados o el peso de nuestras cargas, la misericordia de Dios siempre está ahí, esperándonos con los brazos abiertos. Las palabras del Señor a Santa Faustina a resuenan a través de los siglos: "Quiero conceder un perdón completo a las almas que se confesarán y recibirán la Sagrada Comunión en la Fiesta de Mi Misericordia".

Hoy, este santuario se convierte en un faro de luz, un símbolo del amor insondable que Dios tiene por cada uno de nosotros. Es un lugar donde podemos venir y experimentar el poder transformador de la misericordia divina. Aquí, podemos buscar el perdón, encontrar fortaleza y abrazar la promesa de la vida eterna.

Recordemos también que el Santuario de la Divina Misericordia no es solo un lugar de consuelo personal, sino también una llamada a la acción. A medida que disfrutamos del amor ilimitado de Dios, se nos recuerda nuestra responsabilidad de extender ese amor y misericordia a los demás. Estamos llamados a ser instrumentos de la compasión de Dios en un mundo que a menudo está hambriento de ella.

Que este santuario sirva como catalizador para actos de bondad, perdón y reconciliación. Que nos inspire a tender la mano a los necesitados, a sanar las heridas de la división y a construir una sociedad más compasiva y justa.

Al celebrar hoy el establecimiento de este Santuario Arquidiocesano de la Divina Misericordia, hagámoslo con el corazón lleno de gratitud y esperanza. Que se convierta en un lugar sagrado para todos los que buscan la misericordia de Dios, un lugar donde las vidas sean transformadas y las almas sean elevadas.

Recordemos las palabras de Santa Faustina: "Jesús, en Ti confío". Que esta confianza en la infinita misericordia de Dios nos guíe mientras emprendemos juntos este viaje.

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a todos los que entren en este lugar sagrado.

P. Juan J. Ochoa  
Rector  
Santuario Arquidiocesano de la Divina Misericordia

## **HISTORIA DE LA DEVOCIÓN A LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA EN LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO REY**

La parroquia de Cristo Rey fue fundada en 1926 en su fiesta homónima. La parroquia ha promovido muchos métodos católicos de enseñanza y santificación, entre ellos las oraciones a la Divina Misericordia. Bajo el pastorado de Mons. Alexander George, los feligreses de la Iglesia de Cristo Rey comenzaron a celebrar y promover la devoción a la Divina Misericordia en 1997. El Domingo de la Divina Misericordia (2° Domingo de Pascua), comenzó a ser celebrado por los feligreses de Cristo Rey incluso antes de que el Papa Juan Pablo II estableciera esta fiesta en el año 2000 para la Iglesia universal.

El padre George Bobowski, de la diócesis de Lomza, Polonia, fue confiado por los obispos de Polonia como promotor internacional de la devoción a la Divina Misericordia. Fue el Padre Bobowski quien dio mayor vigor a esta devoción en la parroquia de Cristo Rey.

En 2003, el Padre Antonio Cacciapuoti, Párroco de Cristo Rey, junto con los feligreses, afirmó el valor de la devoción a la Divina Misericordia al obtener una copia de la imagen de la Divina Misericordia promovida por la Hermana Faustina Kowalska.

Desde la instalación, la imagen de la Divina Misericordia ha atraído a los feligreses y a la comunidad en general, no solo a buscar la Divina Misericordia, sino también a aprender que están llamados a ser instrumentos de la misericordia de Dios para los demás.

En 2006, los feligreses de Cristo Rey celebraron el primer Congreso de la Divina Misericordia. Se ha convertido en una celebración anual que atrae a una gran variedad de oradores de diferentes partes del mundo y participantes de diferentes lugares de los EE. UU.

En 2006 la Formación Mensual de la Divina Misericordia, vinculada a la Asociación Faustinum de Cracovia, Santuario Mundial de la Divina Misericordia, comenzó y continúa hasta ahora.

Desde hace ya varios años, los feligreses de Cristo Rey recitan la coronilla de la Divina Misericordia todos los días antes de misa.

Todos los domingos, una imagen de peregrinación de Jesús Misericordioso va a la casa de un feligrés, donde se invita a la familia a que recen juntos la coronilla de la Divina Misericordia por una semana. Además de esto, se le proporciona a la familia el diario de St. Faustina, al igual que otra literatura sobre la Divina Misericordia.

En 2021, el P. Juan Ochoa, párroco de la Iglesia Cristo Rey, solicitó al Arzobispo José Gómez, que declare el Santuario de la Divina Misericordia.