



IMAGE OF DIVINE MERCY IN THE DIARY OF SAINT FAUSTINA

In Saint Faustina's diary we can find over 50 entries regarding the painting. Here are some of them.

Diary 47: In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand [was] raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale. In silence I kept my gaze fixed on the Lord; my soul was struck with awe, but also with great joy. After a while, Jesus said to me, **Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world.**

Diary 48: I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory.

Diary 49: When I told this to my confessor, I received this for a reply: "That refers to your soul." He told me, "Certainly, paint God's image in your soul." When I came out of the confessional, I again heard words such as these: My image already is in your soul. I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy. I want this image, which you will paint with a brush, to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy.

Diary 51 – 53: When I spoke about this to Mother Superior [Rose, telling her] that God had asked this of me, she answered that Jesus should give some sign so that we could recognize Him more clearly.

When I asked the Lord Jesus for a sign as a proof "that You are truly my God and Lord and that this request comes from You," I heard this interior voice, I will make this all clear to the Superior by means of the graces which I will grant through this image.

When I tried to run away from these interior inspirations, God said to me that on the Day of Judgment He would demand of me a great number of souls.

Once, exhausted because of these various difficulties that had befallen me because of what Jesus had said to me and what He had demanded of me for the painting of this image, I made up my mind to approach Father Andrasz before my perpetual vows, and to ask him to dispense me from all these interior inspirations and from the duty of painting this image. After having heard my confession, Father Andrasz gave me this answer: "I will dispense you from nothing, Sister; it is not right for you to turn away from these interior inspirations, but you must absolutely – and I say, absolutely – speak about them to your confessor; otherwise, you will go astray despite the great graces you are receiving from God.

For the present you are coming to me for confession, but understand, Sister, that you must have a permanent confessor; that is to say, a spiritual director.”

I was very upset by this. I thought that I would get myself free from everything, and it turned out quite the opposite – an explicit command to follow the requests of Jesus. And now, still another torment, as I had no permanent confessor. Even if I went to the same confessor for a certain period of time, I could not open my soul to him in respect to these graces, and this caused me ineffable pain. So, I asked Jesus to give these graces to someone else, because I did not know how to make use of them and was only wasting them. **“Jesus, have mercy on me; do not entrust such great things to me, as You see that I am a bit of dust and completely inept.”**

But the goodness of Jesus is infinite; He had promised me visible help here on earth, and a little while later I received it in Vilnius, in the person of Father Sopocko. I had already known him before coming to Vilnius, thanks to an interior vision. One day I saw him in our chapel between the altar and the confessional and suddenly I heard a voice in my soul say, This is the visible help for you on earth. He will help you carry out My will on earth.

The task assigned by the Lord Jesus to Sister Faustina was humanly impossible because she did not have basic artistic skills. Trying to be obedient to God's will to paint the image, she sought help from a fellow sister, but nothing came of it.

On the one hand, the urging of the Lord Jesus to perform this task, and on the other hand, the disbelief of her confessors and superiors, became a great personal suffering for Sister Faustina. During her stay in Płock (over 2 years) and then in Warsaw, she kept thinking about the unfulfilled request of the Lord Jesus, the more so because He made her feel how great the task entrusted to her was in God's plans.

Diary 154: Once, when there was adoration at the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family, I went there in the evening with one of our sisters. As soon as I entered the chapel, the presence of God filled my soul. I prayed as I do at certain times, without saying a word. Suddenly, I saw the Lord who said to me, Know that if you neglect the matter of the painting of the image and the whole work of mercy, you will have to answer for a multitude of souls on the day of judgment. After these words of Our Lord, a certain fear filled my soul, and alarm took hold of me. Try as I would, I could not calm myself. These words kept resounding in my ears: So, I will not only have to answer for myself on the day of judgment, but also for the souls of others. These words cut deep into my heart. When I returned home, I went to the little Jesus, fell on my face before the Blessed Sacrament and said to the Lord, **“I will do everything in my power, but I beg You to be always with me and to give me strength to do Your holy will; for You can do everything, while I can do nothing of myself.”**

Blessed Michael Sopocko wrote in his Diary: "Driven more by curiosity about what kind of painting it would be, than by faith in the authenticity of these visions, I asked the painter Prof. Eugeniusz Kazimirowski to paint this image."

Father Sopoćko partially introduced the painter to Sister Faustina's mission and obliged him to keep it secret. This valued and thoroughly educated painter gave up his own artistic concept in order to reliably reproduce on canvas what Sister Faustina reported. She came to the painting studio at least once a week for six months to point out additions and necessary corrections. She tried to make the image of Merciful Jesus exactly as it was shown to her in the vision. Father Sopoćko, the founder of the work, actively participated in the painting of the image, and at the painter's request, he posed dressed in an alb.

The time of painting together became an opportunity to read the content of the painting more thoroughly. Disputed issues were resolved by the Lord Jesus Himself (Diary 299; 326; 327; 344). Sister Faustina's conversation with the Lord Jesus about the painting was very meaningful:

Diary 299-301: When, on one occasion, my confessor told me to ask the Lord Jesus the meaning of the two rays in the image, I answered, "Very well, I will ask the Lord."

During prayer I heard these words within me: **The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls.....**

These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross.

These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him. I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy.

Ask of my faithful servant [Father Sopoćko] that, on this day, he tell the whole world of My great mercy; that whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment.

+Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy.

+Oh, how much I am hurt by a soul's distrust! Such a soul professes that I am Holy and Just, but does not believe that I am Mercy and does not trust in My Goodness. Even the devils glorify My Justice but do not believe in My Goodness. My Heart rejoices in this title of Mercy.

Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. All the works of My hands are crowned with mercy.

Diary 313: Once, when I was visiting the artist [Eugene Kazimirowski] who was painting the image, and saw that it was not as beautiful as Jesus is, I felt very sad about it, but I hid this deep in my heart. When we had left the artist's house, Mother Superior [Irene] stayed in town to attend to some matters while I returned home alone. I went immediately to the chapel and wept a good deal. I said to the Lord, "Who will paint You as beautiful as

You are?" Then I heard these words: **Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace.**

Diary 326: Once, Jesus said to me, **My gaze from this image is like My gaze from the cross.**

Diary 327: Once my confessor [Father Sopoćko] asked me where the inscription should be placed, because there was not enough space in the picture for everything. In answered, "I will pray and give you an answer next week." When I left the confessional and was passing before the Blessed Sacrament, I received an inner understanding about the inscription. Jesus reminded me of what He had told me the first time; namely, that these three words must be clearly in evidence: **"Jezu, Ufam Tobie" ["Jesus, I trust in You"]**. I understood that Jesus wanted the whole formula to be there, but He gave no direct orders to this effect as He did for these three words.

I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You."

From this conversation emanates the sincerity of a person endowed with supernatural grace, who in her mystical experiences saw the beauty of the risen Savior. The Lord Jesus appeared to Sister Faustina many times in the form that was painted in the image (Diary 473; 500; 560; 613; 657; 1046), and He also repeatedly demanded that this image, which He sanctified with His living presence, be made available for public veneration.

Diary 414: On Good Friday, at three o'clock in the afternoon, when I entered the chapel, I heard these words: **I desire that the image be publicly honored.** Then I saw the Lord Jesus dying on the Cross amidst great suffering, and out of the Heart of Jesus came the same two rays as are in the image.

Thanks to the efforts of Father Sopoćko, the image of the Merciful Savior, displayed in the window of the gallery at the Chapel of Our Lady of Mercy in the Gate of Dawn in Vilnius, on April 26-28, 1935, was venerated for the first time during the solemn closing of the celebrations of the Jubilee of the 1900th anniversary of the Redemption of the World. On the last day of the celebration (it was the first Sunday after Easter), Sister Faustina participated in the service. A sermon on Divine Mercy was preached by Fr. Sopoćko, as demanded by the Lord Jesus.

Diary 87: On Friday at ten minutes to six, when I and some of our wards were coming in from the garden for supper, I saw the Lord Jesus above our chapel, looking just as He did the first time, I saw Him and just as He is painted in the image. The two rays which emanated from the Heart of Jesus covered our chapel and the infirmary, and then the whole city, and spread out over the whole world. This lasted about four minutes and disappeared.

Diary 88: During adoration I felt God close to me. A moment later I saw Jesus and Mary. At the sight of them I was filled with joy, and asked the Lord, "What is Your will, Jesus,

concerning the matter about which my confessor told me to ask You?" Jesus replied, It is My will that he should remain here and that he should not take the initiative of dispensing himself. I asked Jesus whether the inscription could be: "Christ, King of Mercy." He answered, I am King of Mercy, but He did not say "Christ." I desire that this image be displayed in public on the first Sunday after Easter. That Sunday is the Feast of Mercy. Through the Word Incarnate, I make known the bottomless depth of My mercy.

Diary 89: Strangely, all things came about just as the Lord had requested. In fact, it was on the first Sunday after Easter [April 1935] that the image was publicly honored by crowds of people for the first time. For three days it was exposed and received public veneration. Since it was placed at the very top of a window at Ostra Brama [Shrine of Our Lady, above the "Eastern Gate" to the city of Vilnius], it could be seen from a great distance. At Ostra Brama, during these three days, the closing of the Jubilee of the Redemption of the world was being celebrated, marking the nineteen hundred years that have passed since the Passion of our Savior. I see now that the work of Redemption is bound up with the work of mercy requested by the Lord.

Diary 416: When the image was displayed, I saw a sudden movement of the hand of Jesus, as He made a large sign of the cross. In the evening of the same day, when I had gone to bed, I saw the image going over the town, and the town was covered with what appeared to be a mesh and nets. As Jesus passed, He cut through all the nets and finally made a large sign of the cross and disappeared. I saw myself surrounded by a multitude of malicious figures burning with hatred for me. Various threats came from their lips, but none of them touched me. After a moment, this apparition vanished, but for a long time I could not get to sleep. ()

Diary 417: April 26. On Friday, when I was at Ostra Brama to attend the ceremony during which the image was displayed, I heard a sermon given by my confessor [Father Sopocko]. This sermon about divine Mercy was the first of the things that Jesus had asked for so very long ago. When he began to speak about the great mercy of the Lord, the image came alive and the rays pierced the hearts of the people gathered there, but not all to the same degree. Some received more, some less. Great joy filled my soul to see the grace of God. Then I heard the words, You are a witness of My mercy. You shall stand before My throne forever as a living witness to My mercy.

Diary 420: Low Sunday; that is, the Feast of The Divine Mercy, the conclusion of the Jubilee of Redemption. When we went to take part in the celebrations, my heart leapt with joy that the two solemnities were so closely united. I asked God for mercy on the souls of sinners. Toward the end of the service, when the priest took the Blessed Sacrament to bless the people, I saw the Lord Jesus as He is represented in the image. The Lord gave His blessing, and the rays extended over the whole world.

Suddenly, I saw an impenetrable brightness in the form of a crystal dwelling place, woven together from waves of brilliance unapproachable to both creatures and spirits. Three doors led to this resplendence. At that moment, Jesus, as He is represented in the image, entered this resplendence through the second door to the Unity within. It is a triple United, which is incomprehensible – which is infinity. I heard a voice, **This Feast emerged from**

the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of My tender mercies. Every soul believing and trusting in My mercy will obtain it. I was overjoyed at the immense goodness and greatness of my God.

In her later correspondence, Sister Faustina wrote to Fr. Sopoćko: "God has let me know that He is satisfied with what has already been done. Immersed in prayer and in the closeness of God, I experienced in my soul a deep peace about the entirety of this work. (...) And now, as for these images [small copies] . . . Little by little, people are buying, and many souls have already experienced the grace of God that has flowed through this source. Like everything, it will go slowly. These pictures are not as pretty as this big picture. They are bought by those who are attracted by the grace of God..." (Krakow, February 21, 1938).

In the history of the apparitions, there is only one known event when the Lord Jesus expressed a wish to paint a picture with his image. He himself presented and accepted his artistic representation – repeatedly showing Sister Faustina his living presence in the form as it was recreated in the painted picture. In addition, with the promise of special graces for the worshippers of this image, he gave it an extraordinary religious value.

Diary 570: On one occasion, I saw Jesus in a bright garment; this was in the greenhouse. [He said to me,] Write what I say to you. My delight is to be united with you. With great desire, I wait and long for the time when I shall take up My residence sacramentally in your convent. My spirit will rest in that convent and I will bless its neighborhood in a special way. Out of love for you all, I will avert any punishments which are rightly meted out by My Father's justice. My daughter, I have inclined My heart to your requests. Your assignment and duty here on earth is to beg for mercy for the whole world. No soul will be justified until it turns with confidence to My mercy, and this is why the first Sunday after Easter is to be the Feast of Mercy. On that day, priests are to tell everyone about My great and unfathomable mercy. I am making you the administrator of My mercy. Tell the confessor that the Image is to be on view in the church and not within the enclosure in that convent. **By means of this Image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so, let every soul have access to it.**

Diary 851: December 28, [1936]. Today I have started a novena to The Divine Mercy. That is, I place myself in spirit before the image and recite the chaplet which the Lord has taught me. On the second day of the novena, I saw the image, as it were, come alive, adorned with numberless votive lamps, and I saw great crowds of people coming there, and many of them were filled with happiness. O Jesus, with what great joy did my heart beat!

Diary 1789: Today, I saw the glory of God which flows from the image. Many souls are receiving graces, although they do not speak of it openly. Even though it has met up with all sorts of vicissitudes, God is receiving glory because of it; and the efforts of Satan and of evil men are shattered and come to naught. In spite of Satan's anger, The Divine Mercy will triumph over the whole world and will be worshipped by all souls.