

## **041909 Divine Mercy Sunday**

It is quite likely that we would not be here in the church celebrating this day dedicated to God's mercy if it were not for St. Faustina... and especially due to the work and leadership of the late Holy Father Pope John Paul II. Just yesterday, I received a report and it is now starting under investigation. Here's what was reported: a nine-year-old Polish boy was brought to the grave of the late pope, who died on April 2 2005.

Cardinal Dziwisz, the former private secretary to the Holy Father said that the young boy was crippled by a kidney tumor and unable to walk. So he was brought into St. Peter's Basilica in a wheelchair as part of his pilgrimage to visit the final resting place of the pope. "As soon as the boy emerged from the basilica, he told his parents: 'I want to walk.' He got up and started walking and healthy." This was according to the cardinal who talked to the Associated Press news agency. The boy is from Gdansk, the Polish seaport known as the birthplace of the Solidarity movement which helped bring down decades of Communist rule in John Paul's homeland in the Eighties.

If investigations reveal that there are no scientific explanations for the child's recovery, the healing may be put forward as the miracle needed to declare John Paul II "blessed". A second miracle will be required to declare him a saint. And speaking of near miracles, Pope Benedict recently said, "How many priestly vocations ... are linked to the testimony and preaching of my venerated predecessor!" He said this as he urged young people to continue joining the priesthood and religious life. And this brings me to today's devotion and time before the Blessed Sacrament.

We may be here because we think it is what we should do or ought to do. Well, 'yes' – but there is so much more. We demonstrate faith in the mercy of Jesus by coming here... we recognize our sinfulness and humbly trust in His forgiveness. We rely on a mercy which will greet us before the day of Justice.

And what is it that Jesus asks of us? In our prayers today, bring all mankind, especially sinners before him... bring the souls of priests and religious... bring to Jesus all those faithful and devout souls who have played some part in our getting here or those giving good example in this day and age... parents or coworkers or nuns... and bring to Divine Mercy all little children. Also bring to Jesus pagans and heretics and those who leave or break away from the Church... and those who have turned lukewarm or complacent about their faith... and also the souls in Purgatory

You see – we are a part of the work of Sister Faustina and John Paul II, the Great. And it is in that manner that we dare to join in the words that seem almost pompous.... Eternal Father, I offer you... imagine... I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your most dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. As Catholics... as people living under the mercy of Jesus, we can say these words because we have Jesus inside of us... we who have received Christ in the Eucharist. That is why we can make bold to say such words... And besides offering the Father His Son, we are also offering ourselves as part of helping in the work of salvation.

Now can we see that, in part we are truly participating in the words and meaning of what Scripture tells us:

We make up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ... we are present day Christ-bearers bringing His love and mercy to the world... and for the world.

And dear friends – hear also these words of Jesus, “Tell souls where they are to look for solace... for comfort: that is in the Tribunal of Mercy – the Sacrament of Reconciliation.” Jesus tells us that that is where the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated... miracles even more awesome than a crippled boy walking in Rome...

And now, finally – let us voice one of the Divine Mercy prayers – this one is for our country – which is racked with so many problems and such division... lives terminated in abortions and by euthanasia.... Families torn apart in divorce or greatly troubled by economic or employment woes... let us bow our heads and pray together,

***“Most merciful Jesus, we beseech You through the intercession of Your Saints, and especially through the intercession of Your dearest Mother who nurtured You from childhood, bless our native land. We beg You, Jesus, look not on our sins, but on the tears of little children, on the hunger and cold they suffer.... Jesus, for the sake of these innocent ones, grant us the graces that we ask You for our country...Amen.”***