

Sometimes Our Lord is Visible

Jesus to Sr Josefa (from the book: The Way of Divine Love)

“For love of souls, I instituted the Sacrament of Penance, that I might forgive them, not once or twice, but as often as they needed to recover grace. There I wait for them, longing to wash away their sins, not in water, but in My Blood.”

“But how great was My sorrow to see in the person of my unhappy disciple Judas the throng of those who, though often gathered at My feet and washed with My Blood [the baptized], would yet hasten to their eternal perdition.”

“I would like these [those living with sin] to understand that it is not the fact of being in sin that ought to keep them from Me. They must never think that there is no remedy for them, nor that they have forfeited forever the love that once was theirs.... No, poor souls, the God who has shed all His Blood for you has no such feelings for you!”

In talking with Fr Bob and Fr Hamak, last Sunday, across the 3 of us (with a little spontaneous help from Fr Rader!), we heard a total of about 8 hours of Confession on Divine Mercy Sunday. This is far more in one day than we have ever had. Is that because of us? One of my brothers said he went to something similar to what we had last Sunday and he said he almost left because of the number of people there, thinking he wouldn't get to Confession. My youngest brother, the one who's a priest, also had a Divine Mercy celebration, similar to what we did, with similar results. Ladies and gentlemen, it's worth our while to stop and look at that and think about it. Such things, especially in our times, do not just happen – something special had to cause it. Could it be...dare we think...He is really is real? The Lord is real, He is a good and loving Father who keeps His promises, who does what He says He will do. He really is there and He really is interacting with us. The response to Divine Mercy Sunday cannot be explained any other way. In this day of obstinance toward the faith and obstinance even among Catholics towards Confession, obtaining such a response is beyond human power. Our Lord promised a special outpouring of His grace on Divine Mercy Sunday and we have seen it firsthand. This is striking to me. Would you like to see Jesus firsthand, or maybe one of His miracles? Of course we can see Him, through the eyes of faith, in the Blessed Sacrament. But we can also actually see our Lord through His works and promises, as many did on Divine Mercy Sunday. It is worth our while to sit in silence, ponder it, ponder the reality that many of you witnessed firsthand, be grateful for it, and a renewed commitment to our Lord. There are still a good number of people with a strong, immovable faith; maybe even I can be counted among them. But it is still striking to see our Lord's work, our Lord in action – just like it was for the Apostles. It still renews and strengthens us when we see it. Take time to take it in. It is my honor, privilege, and pleasure to see it, much less have some small part in it. A lot of people were excited about the eclipse and wanted to see it. That's of course ok but to see, directly, Jesus' own direct action – a demonstration of His power, His goodness, the keeping of His promises – is far more profound, far more striking. It humbles us and makes us grateful and happy all at the same time. This is the effect of being in the presence of God – that's what it does to us.

I would like to return to, and perhaps reiterate, a few things I mentioned on Divine Mercy Sunday, especially the peculiar inscription that our Lord placed at the bottom of it: **Jesus I trust in you**. Why that? If you had to guess what he put on there, is that what you would guess? Of all the things He could have said, why that? How is it even connected to Divine Mercy?

Wouldn't something like: come to the Sacrament of My Mercy, or Embrace My Mercy, or God is Love, or any number of other things been more fitting? Of all the things He could have put onto His own Divine Mercy Image, He put: Jesus I trust in you. Why? Well we might start with a general note, namely that our Lord knows that modern man especially finds it hard to trust the Lord. Modern man looks around and sees big economic structures, world politics, a dictatorship of political correctness, and...he hesitates. He says that's a lot of power, I can be easily crushed. Our Lord looks at each of us, with eyes that penetrate to the very center of our soul, and says: do not look here and there, look at Me, I am all-powerful. These stumps of burning coals can do nothing against Me. They cannot win, it is impossible. Yes, you will have to sacrifice and suffer some but it is I who loves you and it is I who will bring you home.

In any good relation, trust is a necessary part. If a marriage is to be a good marriage, spouses have to trust each other, for example. From our own simple human experience, in business, in family life, with friends or acquaintances we know that if there is not trust there is not a good relation. The same is true for relation with our Lord. Our Lord makes Divine Mercy available precisely so that we might forge relation with Him (this is the essence of getting to Heaven) and complete, unmitigated trust in Him is a necessity...and that trust is badly eroded today. Ladies and gentlemen, take some time to really turn this over in your mind. Maybe even get a Divine Mercy image to help you really meditate on this point.

Let us go further with this question of: why would our Lord use that inscription on His *Divine Mercy* image. As people look out onto the world, they often see a lot of evil – greed and extreme self-interest in work and business, sexual immorality is rampant, good called evil and evil called good, increasing violence and so on. People then say: something has to be done. And what is the frequent answer? Political and social action. Human action, human power. Politics and social action are important. The problem is that these things are treated as the ultimate answer, the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. What is this saying? Human power, human action, human opinion alone – this is what I...what?...this is what I trust in, this is where I put my trust. This can only end in tyranny, as proven throughout history. Our Lord looks at us and says: the only solution, the only answer, the only way to true peace is to be like you are meant to be, to return to Me, and the door to Me is through My mercy. It is not so hard to see why our Lord put that inscription on His Divine Mercy Image – receiving, embracing His Mercy is the only answer to man's problems, it is the final solution, and to embrace it requires trust in Him.

Perhaps it is that you do not see how this could work. Is this not precisely where, why, and how we trust in Him? Is this not exactly the time to say: I don't know how it will bring about goodness but I look at Him and say: because you say so, Lord, I will do it, I will believe...I will trust.

Are those who accept it too few in numbers? Is this part of the temptation to reject trust in Him, first and foremost, to do what He asks? Has our Lord not shown over and over again that this is always how He acts? His very entrance into this world in human form started very small, very quietly with a simple, humble nobody virgin living in a nobody town in a nobody country. The Church, founded by our Lord, was tiny in numbers and entrusted to 12 uneducated, simple men and has now spread to the 4 corners of the world. Seeing all of this, should we not trust in Him?

Jesus I trust in You.

God bless you, Fr Kuhn.