

## Symbolism in the Image of Merciful Jesus



*Jesus, I trust in You*

**SUMMARY:** The image is of Our Lord in a walking position as He appeared in the Cenacle on the day of His Resurrection and instituted the Sacrament of Penance\*. (Jn 20: 19-23) He slightly draws aside the garment in the vicinity of His Heart from which spring forth two rays, a red ray and a pale ray. These rays signify the blood and water which flowed from His opened side on the cross. (Jn 19:34) From that time on, blood and water gush forth from the Divine Heart of the Saviour in the form of **life-giving graces** found in the Sacrament of the Eucharist\*\* represented as blood in the red ray and in the form of **purifying graces** from the stains of sin found in the Sacraments of Baptism and Penance represented by water in the pale ray. Whoever lives in their light, that is, whoever duly avails himself of the Sacraments will not be touched by the just hand of God.

**MORE ON THE RAYS:** Jesus speaks: "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." (Diary, 299) St. Faustina writes: "When the priest took the Blessed Sacrament to bless the people, I saw Our Lord Jesus as He is in the image. He gave His blessing and the rays extended over the whole world." (Diary, 420)

From the diary of a young Polish nun, devotion to the Merciful Jesus began in the 1930s. Pope St. John Paul II canonized St. Faustina Kowalska in 2000 and established the Feast of Divine Mercy, adding it to the Church's universal calendar on the first Sunday after Easter. In continuity with John Paul II, Pope Francis declared an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy from Nov. 2015-16.

**JESUS' GAZE:** Why do Jesus' eyes appear to be looking downward? In St. Faustina's Diary, we read: "My gaze from this image is like **My gaze from the Cross.**" (Diary 326) Lifted up from the earth (Jn 12: 32), Jesus looks down upon all with a gaze of greatest love. "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (Jn 15:13)

**THE INSCRIPTION:** Jesus tells Faustina: "Paint an image according to the pattern you see with the signature: '**Jesus, I trust in You.**' I desire that this image be venerated... throughout the world." (Diary, 47)

**FULL PRAYER:** Jesus speaks: "When you say this prayer with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give him the grace of conversion. This is the prayer: '**O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You.**'" (Diary, 186-187)

**ON TRUST:** Jesus tells St. Faustina: "The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is **trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive.** Souls that trust boundlessly are a great comfort to Me, because I pour all the treasures of My graces into them. I rejoice that they ask for much, because it is My desire to give much, very much. On the other hand, I am sad when souls ask for little, when they narrow their hearts." (Diary, 1578)

**MAKING THE IMAGE KNOWN:** Jesus speaks: "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." (Diary, 327) "By means of this Image, I shall be granting many graces, so **let every soul have access to it.**" (Diary, 570)



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References: The Diary of St. Faustina, Congregation of Sisters of Merciful Jesus at [www.faustina-message.com](http://www.faustina-message.com), \* This Sacrament has several names. See CCC 1422-24. \*\* Fr. Michał Sopoćko (1888-1975), St. Faustina's spiritual director, explains that while the red ray primarily represents the Eucharist, it includes remaining Sacraments also (aside from Baptism & Penance). Visit [www.divinemercy.org](http://www.divinemercy.org)