

Divine Mercy Corner

April 2011

On May 1, 2011 not only will there be a celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, but the beatification of Pope John Paul II, will also be celebrated. Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD in his book *Divine Mercy A Guide from Genesis to Benedict XVI*, highlights some of the “Acts of Divine Mercy Evangelism by Pope John Paul II” which include:

The encyclical *Dives in Misericordia (Rich in Mercy)* written by Pope John Paul II in 1981 emphasizing that revealing God’s merciful love was at the heart of the mission of Jesus.

Sister Faustina Kowalska was beatified by the Pope in 1993 saying in his homily that “Her mission continues and is yielding astonishing fruit.”

In 1997, while visiting the tomb of Blessed Faustina in Lagiewniki, Poland, the Pope said, “There is nothing more that man needs than Divine Mercy.”

Pope John Paul II canonized Sister Faustina in 2000 and established that the Octave Sunday of Easter become “Divine Mercy Sunday” saying that he was” passing the message of Divine Mercy on to a new millennium.”

On Mercy Sunday in 2001, the Pope said that the Easter gift the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium is Divine Mercy

At the new Shrine of Divine Mercy in 2002 in Lagiewniki, Poland the Pope consecrated the whole world to Divine Mercy with these words: “I do so with the burning desire that the message of God’s merciful love, proclaimed here through Saint Faustina, may be made known to all the peoples of the earth and fill their hearts with hope.”

Also of note is that Pope John Paul II received Holy Communion at the Vigil Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday just before his death on Saturday, April 3, 2005. Pope Benedict XVI said, “Providence decided that he should die right on the eve of that day (Divine Mercy Sunday) in the arms of Divine Mercy.”

Pope John Paul II had written the *Regina Caeli* message in preparation for delivery on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, 2005. It included these words: “Lord, who reveals the Father’s love by Your death and Resurrection, we believe in You and confidently repeat to You today: Jesus I trust in You, have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.”

The Pope’s devotion to Divine Mercy spanned a period from his days in seminary, where he was introduced to the message by another seminarian (who retired as a Cardinal of the Vatican), to the very last day of his life.

On May 1st as we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, we shall also celebrate the beatification of the “Great Mercy Pope,” John Paul II, who lived the message of mercy throughout his life.

For information about Divine Mercy locally, please visit www.divinemercydesmoines.com.