

### Mercy Unlimited

"An unqualified gift is an...



unlimited mercy"



**DIVINE MERCY:  
DEFECTS OF JESUS**



**THE UNEXPECTED  
CONNECTION  
ON FORGIVENESS**



## MISERERE CORDIA (MERCY INSURED)



### The Immense Divine Mercy: Defects of Jesus

Ever since the Year 2000, the second Sunday of Easter season has been officially known as "Divine Mercy Sunday" the year that St John Paul II officially put the feast on the Church's liturgical calendar. Catholics are familiar with the origin of the Divine Mercy Devotion, but many still might not know.



In 1931, a young Polish nun, Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska saw a vision of Jesus with two rays of light coming out of his heart. Jesus told her to have a painting produced replicating this vision and signing off, **“Jesus, I trust in you!”**

Over the next 7 years, the Lord gave Sister Faustina (now, St. Faustina), numerous private revelations concerning His merciful love. These she recorded in a diary, as Jesus had instructed her to do. Through these private revelations, **Jesus taught the young nun that His Mercy is unlimited and available even to the greatest sinners.**

The Lord forgives us and “forgets” our sins whenever we approach Him with a sincere and repentant heart. We have fantastic examples from the Bible: Simon Peter, Saul of Tarsus, the good thief, the women caught in adultery, the Prodigal Son.

How about Blessed Bartolo Longo: the Satanic Priest, St Augustine: Hedonistic Partyer, St Mary of Egypt: Prostitute, St Angela of Foligno: Vain Materialistic Adulteress, St Moses the Ethiopian: the leader of a band of murders and robbers and the list goes on ...

When Jesus “forgets” our sins, it does not mean that Jesus no longer knows. Jesus is God and He knows everything: future, past and present. In biblical terms: Forgetting means that the sin we have committed – and repented of – and been forgiven completely– and no longer comes between us and God. Guaranteed by God!



“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?” (Luke 15:4)



Fr Andrew Wong, SD

Editor: Veronica Nathan

Each human soul is valuable and priceless. Jesus took the immense risk by re-appearing to Thomas on the Sunday after Easter. Jesus did not need to appear to the 10, since they already witnessed that He is alive! Thomas needed to be included as Jesus' lost sheep who did not believe that He had risen from the dead. For Thomas, it must have been a very startling experience. Imagine putting your fingers in the nail holes and your hand into Jesus' torn side? No wonder Thomas cried out, **"My Lord and My God."** (John 20:28) Jesus took a great risk to show Thomas His wounds and for Thomas to experience Divine Mercy. Once Thomas encounter Jesus – his unbelief was over – he now believes!



## Mercy Unlimited

If someone were to ask us what Mercy feels like, how would we describe it? Unless, we ourselves have been shown mercy or have shown mercy to another, it's almost impossible to describe it. For we cannot give what we do not possess.

Mercy is a love that responds to human need in an unexpected or unmerited way. It is not unusual to hear some people say, "Oh, that man, he don't deserve mercy, as he was a very bad person and deserve to be punished." The world seems to be witnessing increasing levels of violence, fear and hatred that challenge us each day.

## The Defects of Jesus & His Immense Divine Mercy

(John 20:19-31)

This statement *"The Defects of Jesus"* does not sound right. We all know that Jesus was sinless. I John 3:5 says, **"...And in him is no sin."** I Peter 2:22 says, **"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."** Jesus could not and did not sin.

Yet His human nature could be tempted. Only a sinless, perfect Jesus could both pay the price of sin and offer others forgiveness and eternal life

There is nothing heretical here. It is from an inspiring book, ***Testimony of Hope*** written by the late Archbishop Francis-Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan (17 April 1928 – 16 September 2002). Pope Francis named him Venerable on 4 May 2017, a significant step on the road towards canonization. In 1967 Archbishop Francis-Xavier was the Archbishop of Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City). He was detained by the communist government of Vietnam and imprisoned for 13 years, of which 9 years was in solitary confinement.

In prison, he smuggled out messages to his beloved flock on scraps of papers. Secretly, he celebrated Mass with only a small piece of bread and a few drops of wine. The chalice was his bare hands.

Finally expelled from Vietnam in 1991, Archbishop Francis-Xavier went to Rome, where he served in the Roman Curia under Pope John Paul II. He was made a Cardinal in 2001, the year before he died. In the Jubilee Year, 2000, Pope John Paul asked Archbishop Francis-Xavier to preach the *Spiritual Exercises* to him and members of the Curia. These preaching were later published and entitled, *Testimony of Hope*. He made a very dreadful statement “5 Defects of Jesus” in his preaching to the Holy Father and members of the Curia. He says, ***I met the living Jesus; He fascinated me. I follow Him – because I love the defects of Jesus.***”

### **1<sup>st</sup> Defect: Jesus Has a Terrible Memory**

On the Cross, Jesus heard the voice of the thief at His right side, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” (Luke 43:42). Here is a singularly touching scene. Dismas (the good thief) asking for an appeal. He did not ask for a special place on the right or left; or a room in the King’s palace. Dismas is content to be forgotten, certainly if the King remembers him at all, it will be thoughts of tenderness and mercy.

Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” Dismas experienced, even in a few short hours, the Divine Love and Mercy which Jesus shows to everyone. ***Jesus forgot all about his sins ... Not only does He forgive, He forgives everything.***

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Defect: Jesus Is Not Good At Mathematics**

If Jesus took a math examination He would surely fail. A shepherd had 100 sheep - a count indicated one sheep was missing. Without thinking, the shepherd went to search for the one lost sheep leaving the other 99 sheep safe and sound. It does not make mathematical sense to look for one lost sheep. It wouldn't consider it worth his time. The true shepherd responds to one lost sheep, bearing the inconvenience of searching for it. He does it for compassion; because He really cares about what happens to the lost one. ***For Jesus, 1 equals 99, perhaps even more ...***

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Defect: Jesus Did Not Excel in Logic**

A woman had 10 drachmas, lost one of them, so she lit a lamp to search for it. When she found it, she invited her neighbours and told them, "Rejoice with me, for I found the coin which I had lost." (Luke 15:9) And yet: "Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." ***It is very disturbing and illogical to us!***

## **4<sup>th</sup> Defect: Jesus Takes Too Many Risks**

Politicians seeking election prepare a very precise program with many promises. Business companies will follow similar business enriching schemes. Jesus said, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head." (Matthew 8:20) The apostles were sent out by Jesus with no plan at all and living in poverty. They should just rely on Providence. ***Jesus promises only trials and persecutions to those who follow Him – a risky "business plan."***

## **5<sup>th</sup> Defect: Jesus is a Terrible Financial Manager**

If Jesus were to run a business, He would fare poorly because He would pay the same salary to one who started work in the morning and the Johnny come lately in the afternoon. The employee coming in the morning would surely file a complain to MOM for unjust wages. Jesus would do it on purpose. "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" (Matthew 20:15)

Jesus graces everyone, it is kindness to them, and no injustice to us. It is the envious eye which is displeased at the good of others, and desires their hurt. Let us never envy or grudge, but rejoice and praise God for His Mercy to others as well as to ourselves. **The financial managers of the world have much to learn from Jesus.**

### ***Defects of Jesus ... Extravagant Love!***



The defects of Jesus Is His Immense Divine Love for each of us! To what extent? Infinitely Eternal! Terribly forgetful! Mathematically-Challenged! Illogical! Exceedingly Risky! Uncalculating & Unconditional Dispenser of Divine Mercy!

## **The unexpected connection**

Sandra Walker, a mother of two, lost her husband in a car accident that also caused her to have a life-changing brain injury, according to *The Daily Mail* 16 May 2014. At the trial for the accident, in her court statement Walker said she sympathised with the woman who crashed into them - who herself lost a child in the accident - and gave her a hug. *"I know she is going through as much pain as I am feeling. I wanted her to know that I forgive her for what she did,"* Walker told WSB-TV.

**St John Paul II & St Faustina Pray for Us!**

**Jesus, I trust in You!**

