

Holy Week, Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday

by Fr. Jim Anderson, M.S.A.

Christ's Resurrection is the promise of our own personal resurrection into eternal life within the Blessed Trinity. During the First Eucharist Jesus prayed for us to his Father: "*May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us ... I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so perfected in unity that the world will recognize that it was you who sent me and that you have loved them as you have loved me.*" (John 17:21-23) We rejoice that Jesus has released us from bondage to our own sins and inevitable spiritual death. Jesus is the only Messiah, the Christ of God. There is none other, nor can there ever be another. We rejoice in Jesus' passion, death and resurrection because they tell us of His deep and personal love for each one of us.

Jesus' sufferings and cross express and prove his love and obedience to His Father. He takes the guilt of our sins onto Himself, dying in our place, melting His Father's heart toward us, changing the divine justice that we deserve to divine mercy that he gives us when we repent from our hearts. We know that our own sufferings and joys are known and precious to Him. He calls us to carry our own daily crosses courageously and even joyfully united to Jesus' cross. (Mark 8: 34-35). Moreover, Jesus told Saint Faustina Kowalska that as we are like Him in sharing his passion on earth, so we shall be like Him in sharing his glory for eternity. This Holy Week more than ever we must share Jesus' passion both from love for him and in penance for our own sins and those of the whole world. Many in our world including its leaders have become corrupt and indifferent to God's love, to their own and our sins, and to the wars, violence, genocide and the pitiful suffering, disease and starvation of whole regions of our earth which are the consequences of all of our sins.

The Blessed Mother has long been warning us, beginning with her appearances at La Salette, France in 1846, then at Fatima, Portugal in 1917, at Fostoria, Ohio in 1956, at Garabandal, Spain throughout the 1960's, and at Akita, Japan in 1973 that because of our unrepentant sins God was preparing a most severe chastisement to discipline, correct and to save us from spiritual destruction. God's angels are warning us that its time has now come.

In July 2000 the Vatican published a pamphlet, *The Message of Fatima*, revealing for the first time a vision shown to the Fatima seers on 13 July 1917 that it claimed was the entire 3rd Part of the Fatima Secret. An angel in that vision cries out Penance, Penance, Penance, as the Holy Father and a long procession of clergy and laymen are killed by uniformed soldiers, in the midst of a ruined city with corpses everywhere. According to Fatima scholar and former Fatima archivist, Fr. Joaquin Maria Alonso, C.M.F., and most other Fatima scholars, the Blessed Mother's spoken interpretation of that vision begins with the following sentence written by Sister Lucia in her Fourth Memoir: "*In Portugal the dogma of the Faith will always be preserved, etc. ...*" and is a crucial element of the 3rd Part of the Secret. But it was omitted in the Vatican's document. (See Antonio Socci: *The Fourth Secret of Fatima*, and Christopher Ferrara:

The Secret Still Hidden) But at least we have been told that heaven is warning us for our own well-being to do PENANCE, PENANCE, PENANCE!

In that same pamphlet Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, S.D.B., also claims that the Blessed Mother's request at Fatima in 1917 that the Holy Father with his bishops solemnly consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart was accomplished in 1984 by John Paul II. This is crucial because she promised that Russia would be converted and there would be world peace if that were done and the Church offered devotions of reparation for sin every First Saturday. But as proven by Ferrara and Socci, above, and by this writer in *The Vatican's the Message of Fatima: the Sodano Intervention*, pages 10 to 15, John Paul's blessing of the world was pleasing to God and resulted in many blessings. But the promised conversion of Russia and world peace is not for now because that was promised in return for the Holy Father and his bishops solemnly consecrating Russia, not the world, and leading the Church in the First Saturday reparatory devotions, neither of which is yet accomplished. On the contrary, we have had genocide, continual wars, and now a looming nuclear war!

Jesus told Saint Faustina Kowalska that his Divine Mercy is the last hope of a sinful world. In her diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, at number 699, Jesus told the saint: *"My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flows are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy."*

As we anticipate the great Feast of Divine Mercy the Sunday following Easter, let us pray to the Holy Spirit to help us achieve the perfect penance of doing the spiritual and corporeal Works of Mercy: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." (Mt. 5:7) Let us pray that the Holy Father be moved by the Holy Spirit and protected and enabled by God's holy angels to order his bishops to join him in solemnly consecrating Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and leading the Church in the First Saturday Devotions of Reparation for sin.