

MCA Prayer Activity All Ages



Praying for Divine Mercy

Goal: To remind students that we are called to have mercy on others as we are shown mercy for our own failures and sins; to help children understand that mercy is a grace from God freely given when we ask; to teach students what the Hour of Divine Mercy is.

Leader: On April 30, 2000, Saint John Paul II canonized Saint Faustina, a religious sister to whom Jesus appeared in Poland. Jesus asked Faustina to write down everything He said in a diary and then tell people about His great love and mercy for all. Because she did this, we now celebrate God's abundant mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter.

Reader 1: When he spoke at the Shrine of Divine Mercy in 1997 in his native Poland, then-Pope John Paul II said "From here, ...went out the Message of Divine Mercy that Christ Himself chose to pass on to our generation through Faustina. It is a message that is clear and understandable for everyone. Anyone can look at this image of the merciful Jesus, His Heart radiating grace, and hear in the depths of their own soul what Faustina heard: 'Fear nothing. I am with you always'. (from Faustina's diary, 586)

Reader 2: At Jesus' instruction, Saint Faustina also started The Divine Mercy Chaplet. Said on a regular pair of rosary beads, with a different prayer for each bead, the chaplet is a way to ask God for forgiveness for all our sins and for the sins of everyone in the world. Let's recite the main prayer of the Chaplet together.

ALL: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Pause for silent reflection

Reader 1: Jesus asked Saint Faustina to tell us to remember the moment that he died on the cross - 3 PM—as a special time. It is the Hour of Divine Mercy. Today, let us pray for God's mercy to be poured out on all the children of the world each day at that particular hour.

Our prayer response:

Have Mercy on us and on the whole world.

Materials Needed: This prayer service, printed for individuals or projected on a smart board. Set an altar with a crucifix, a bible, an image of the Divine Mercy (attached), and a globe to represent the missions. Students may also wear the colors of the World Mission Rosary.

Reader 2: Lord Jesus, when it is 3 PM in Harrisburg, the hour of Divine Mercy, it is 7 PM in Yendi, Ghana. The children at Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Yendi have three new classrooms thanks to the prayers and sacrifices of all Missionary Childhood members. We ask that your Divine Mercy flow out to these little ones who are learning of Your love and mercy, too.

ALL: Have Mercy on us and on the whole world.

Reader 1: Lord Jesus, when it is 3 PM in Harrisburg, it is 9 PM in Sambir, Ukraine. We pray for the Divine Mercy of Jesus to flow out to the little ones who live at the Basilian Sister's Orphanage who are supported by our work for the Missionary Childhood Association.

All: Have Mercy on us and on the whole world.

Reader 2: Lord Jesus, when it is 3 PM in Harrisburg, it is 5 AM in Port Moresby on the Pacific island of Papua New Guinea. We pray for the Divine Mercy of Jesus to flow out to the little ones who scavenge garbage at the Baruni Dumpsite, looking for something to sell to help feed their family. Our Missionary Childhood prayers and sacrifices help run programs to improve the daily lives of these children.

ALL: Have Mercy on us and on the whole world.

Reader 1: Lord Jesus, when it is 3 PM in Harrisburg, it is 3 AM in Imus in the Philippines. Children at the Saint Joseph Children's Home live in that orphanage because they have no family to care for them. It was recently built with help from Missionary Childhood. We ask that your Divine Mercy flow out onto those little ones.

ALL: Have Mercy on us and on the whole world.

Leader: Lord Jesus, we understand that You are with all children around the world no matter the time or the place. We pray that through our love and sacrifice for others—both here and around the world—all children may come to know the power of Your Divine Mercy.

ALL: Amen.

Closing Song: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (FABER)