

'Knights of Mercy' Program



A special call to all
Knights of Columbus
Councils and Assemblies



A SPECIAL CALLING FOR THE KNIGHTS

Because the Knights have a **special calling to support the Church** in its endeavors and because they are called to perform acts of charity, we should do our best to assist every parish in celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday. It is very clear, that this feast is to be a refuge and shelter for all souls, but especially for those, who have fallen away from the practice of their faith. This Feast of Divine Mercy offers to all souls, who will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion, on that feast, a complete pardon of all sins and punishment. **As Knights we are called to do acts of charity and there could be no greater acts of charity than to participate in the salvation of lost souls.**

This program is especially designed for Knights of Columbus councils and assemblies so that they may **help our parishes to celebrate** this great feast called Divine Mercy Sunday. One of the **requirements of the proper celebration** of this new feast is the veneration of the Image of the Divine Mercy and this is a very special opportunity to help our parishes to save countless lost souls and experience growth and renewed vitality with this "Knights of Mercy Program". Today, there is a great need for parishes to understand the benefits and tremendous potential that is offered on this incredible feast called Divine Mercy Sunday. Grow your parish and the order with this program!



EXTRAORDINARY GRACES

How can we help Jesus to save lost souls? Jesus made a very special promise for the total pardon of all sins and all punishment for any soul that would go to Confession and receive Him in Holy Communion on this Feast of Mercy. The Church has established this feast as ([Divine Mercy Sunday](#)) in the year 2000, but there is an urgent need for parishes to correctly celebrate it as a true refuge for poor sinners. Unfortunately, many parishes have lost the enthusiasm for evangelization and treat this feast as some type of party for devotees. Our Lord Jesus did not come for the righteous, but for sinners. Please read this article [“Is Your Parish Correctly Celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday”](#)

To ensure that the Church correctly celebrates this feast, Saint Pope John Paul issued a very special [Plenary Indulgence](#) specifically for [Divine Mercy Sunday](#) that essentially backs up and extends the promise of Jesus for the total forgiveness of all sins and all punishment. This decree includes [very important instructions for priests](#) to inform the faithful about the special plenary indulgence, in the most suitable manner, and to make sure that everyone may hear about it; to be generous and prompt to hear Confessions; and to lead the prayers for these indulgences. There are many parishes that have not yet followed these instructions, nor have they understood the incredible benefits of celebrating this great feast, and this is where the Knights can really help them out.

It is clear that the Church has established this feast as a means to rebuild the Church and to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ. Saint Pope John Paul II died on the feast in 2005 and left a final written request asking for a greater understanding of, and acceptance of Divine Mercy. We can best help our own parishes by equipping them with all the necessary information and an image of the Divine Mercy, which is central to a proper celebration. The image is a perfect representation of the gospel on that day!

We have many Catholics that have fallen away from the Church and from the practice of their faith and there are many souls who have not confessed their sins in a long time and these poor souls could also perish for all eternity. What better acts of charity could we do, as Knights, than to assist all of our parishes in celebrating this great feast which can provide for all souls the gift of the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment?

Jesus told Faustina *“On that day all the Divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.”* (Diary, 699) *“Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. Tell souls about this great mercy of Mine, because the awful day, the day of My justice is near.”* (Diary, 965)



WE ARE CALLED TO EVANGELIZE

Saint Pope John Paul II stated in his greetings to the KofC in 2002 “The theme for the 120th Supreme Convention (“Now Is the Time for the Great Catch”) is a summons to ever trust in the Lord’s command to ‘put out into the deep’ (Lk 5:4) in obedience to His word.” Our Lord called out to His Vicar, Saint Pope John Paul II, as He did to Peter “to cast our nets out once again” using Divine Mercy Sunday to obtain that Great Catch. We must help our Church to let down these great nets of mercy. The results, as we remember from Luke’s Gospel, was an incredible catch of fish. In the same way, by trusting in the promise of Our Lord, for a complete pardon, we can bring home many forgotten lost souls on this great new Feast of Divine Mercy ([Divine Mercy Sunday](#)).

Our Lord said *“How very much I desire the salvation of souls!... if only they were willing to accept My grace. The greatest sinners would achieve great sanctity, if only they would trust in My mercy.”* (Diary, 1784) The graces on Divine Mercy Sunday are fully capable of totally restoring a terribly lost sinner to complete sanctity and in turn, that new found soul in Christ will radiate that merciful love to others, so that they may also turn to Him. We read in Scripture “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. (1 Timothy 1:15, 16)

OUR LORD’S INSTRUCTIONS AND PROMISE TO US

“Do whatever is within your power to spread devotion to My mercy. I will make up for what you lack. Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace.” (Diary, 1074) And His promise: *“Souls who spread the honor of My mercy I shield through their entire life as a tender mother her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior.”* (Diary, 1075) These words of Jesus are true and He will make up for what we lack, but we need to do our very best. This “Knights of Mercy Program”, executed with the best of our efforts, will most certainly yield a great harvest of lost souls, which will enliven our parishes, it will renew them and make them grow, and will bring in many new members into our order.

It is crystal clear that we must, as Knights of Columbus, do everything that we possibly can to spread this message of Divine Mercy. Jesus clearly said that He would pour out His mercy, in great abundance, before He returns and we must not just sit back and let souls perish. Saving souls is the most charitable act of mercy that we can perform and this act of charity lasts for all eternity! What follows is a very simple plan to ensure that every parish will be perfectly prepared to properly celebrate this [Divine Mercy Sunday](#). This will bring about a great evangelization in the Church and bring home many souls!



Canvas Divine Mercy image installed in a parish

This "Apostles" Divine Mercy image is very similar to the Knights of Columbus image that traveled to many parishes during the year of prayer in honor of Pope John Paul. This 6 ft. canvas image was a gift to a parish by their local KofC Council # 7514. It has proven to be a great consolation for many. On [Divine Mercy Sunday](#) this image was processed by the Honor Guards and then enthroned. Get one placed in your parish! This particular candle shrine with 1 year memorial candles is earning \$10,000 per year for the parish! What a great gift and a great opportunity for recognition for the Knights!

THE SIMPLE PLAN

- 1. Check with your parish:** See if your parish has an Image of the Divine Mercy. Every parish should have one of these Divine Mercy images as recommended by Pope Benedict in his book "The Spirit of the Liturgy". He clearly illustrated how these images help in the celebration of every Mass and said that they were a necessary part and that they help us to focus on the Second Coming of Christ. If your parish needs an image, the Knights could offer to purchase one for the parish. The goal is to have an image venerated in every single parish. If your parish already has a good size image, then proceed to step 4 in the program.
- 2. Show your pastor the images:** Before purchasing an image, check with your pastor to see which one he likes the best. Show him the different kinds that are available by printing out the [Online Catalog](#) at www.DivineMercySunday.com and let him pick it out the one he likes. Some of the pastors will permanently install these images in their churches with a candle shrine. We have found that if the pastor selects the image, then he will most likely take ownership of it, and that will result in a grand celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday in your parish and this will conclude with many souls returning to the faithful practice of their faith.
- 3. Show your pastor the need for the images:** Sometimes a pastor might feel intimidated by someone offering to buy an image for the church. You can help him to be at ease about it very easily. Print out the [image article](#) and show your pastor what our Pope Benedict XVI had said about placing images of Jesus, the Divine Mercy in churches, found on the www.DivineMercySunday.com website.
- 4. Offer to have a procession:** Make your pastor an offer to process with the Image of Divine Mercy using the Honor Guards (if possible) on Divine Mercy Sunday. Remember that Our Lord asked that the image be solemnly blessed and venerated on this Feast of Mercy. There could be no greater recognition and veneration given to this special image than by a grand KofC procession!
- 5. Approach your pastor once again:** Ask him if he has a copy of the Decree for the [Plenary Indulgence](#) for Divine Mercy Sunday. If he does not have a copy, you can print out a copy by clicking on the words above in red or by getting it on the www.DivineMercySunday.com website. He will appreciate the information that comes directly from the Vatican. Be sure to approach him with respect. The instructions for priests in the Plenary Indulgence will help him to know what the Vatican wants our priests to do to prepare and properly celebrate this feast.
- 6. Provide information about the feast:** Also on this [website](#) are many different [articles](#) about Divine Mercy Sunday that could be used for local and diocesan newspapers and there is also a very good Easter [bulletin insert](#) that is designed for use in the Easter Bulletins as a tool to get the Easter-only Catholics to come back the following Sunday for the Feast of Divine Mercy. There is also a special [Confession Guide](#) that can be printed on the back of the insert. Try to focus on reaching those souls that have been away from the Church and those that have not been to Confession in a long time and are in need of receiving forgiveness.
- 7. Encourage your pastor:** Try to encourage your pastor to announce the Feast of Divine Mercy, on Easter, when there are usually many people in attendance that do not attend mass on a regular basis. These are some of the poor souls that could most benefit from the Plenary Indulgence that is available on Divine

Mercy Sunday. We have found that a simple invitation, on Easter Sunday, to this great Feast of Divine Mercy, can uplift the Easter-only Catholics to return. Print out for priests the "[How to Celebrate Mercy Sunday](#)" leaflet on the website.

- 8. Prepare your fellow members:** Explain to your fellow KofC members about all the graces that are available on Divine Mercy Sunday. Provide information so that they may tell others about Divine Mercy Sunday. Many souls have fallen away from going to Confession on a regular basis. Our Holy Father has called us all to resume the practice of more frequent regular (monthly) Confessions. You can print out this article ([click here](#)) and read it out at council meetings.
- 9. Ask for extra Confession time:** Ask your pastor if he could make extra time to hear the Confessions of those that have not confessed for Easter. According to a Vatican document, released in 2000, called "The Gift of the Indulgence" it is allowed for someone to go to Confession within about 20 days before or after the feast to receive the promise of the total forgiveness of sins and punishment. Those, who have already confessed for Easter, should make room for others.
- 10. Do all you possibly can:** Jesus said *"Do all you possibly can for this work of My mercy. I desire that My mercy be worshiped, and I am giving mankind the last hope of salvation; that is, recourse to My mercy. My Heart rejoices in this feast."* (998) *The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Luke: 10:2)*
- 11. Let all priests know what Jesus said to say:** *"Tell My priests that hardened sinners will repent on hearing their words when they speak about My mercy, about the compassion I have for them in My Heart. To priests who proclaim and extol My mercy, I will give wondrous power; I will anoint their words and touch the hearts to whom they will speak". (from the Diary, entry #1521)*
- 12. Don't forget that Divine Mercy Sunday is not** "a private party for devotees" but instead it is what Jesus refers to as a *"Refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially poor sinners"*. (Diary, entry 699) Make sure that your parish is doing everything that it possibly can to get souls to come back to the practice of their faith. This is the reason for this great Feast of Mercy, Divine Mercy Sunday!
- 13. Trust in Jesus:** Do all you can, check out www.DivineMercySunday.com . If you need any help just call us at 1-888-732-0722 and we will walk you through this Knights of Mercy Program. Many councils have already used it; get going! You will be making all of Heaven rejoice over many lost souls coming home!

For more detailed information about helping your parish to grow by celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday go to the www.DivineMercySunday.com website or call Sir Knight Robert R. Allard at 1-888-732-0722.

Taken from the www.divinemicysunday.com website's "Knights of Mercy Program".

This program was originally designed with the help of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council. The cover photo was from an article about the Knights of Mercy Program covered in Columbia Magazine.

Diary, Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, Divine Mercy in My Soul (c) 1987 Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception, Stockbridge, MA 01263. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.

For a good selection of Divine Mercy images at 50% off (KofC), visit www.DivineMercyPictures.com . If you need a clean and safe electronic candle shrine, to earn income for your parish, please contact us.