

Dear Friends of the Divine Mercy,

Offering in the previous bulletin to start an exchange and a deepening of Jesus' message to Saint Faustina and of the spirituality which flows from it, I would like to begin this bulletin with this question: **In the light of the Catholic faith, what is the aim of the apparitions of Our Lord to Saint Faustina?** For since there are apparitions and a message, Heaven had – and still has – a very special intention behind this epiphany of God, for which we want to become witnesses.

In the light of the Christmas Mystery we have celebrated, into which, with the whole Church we were invited to contemplate the Incarnation of the Word of God in our flesh, we can state that Jesus always comes to save us, to reveal to us His plan of love, and to unite us more intimately to Himself. And so, when Jesus comes to His messenger, Sister Faustina, revealing her the treasure of His Heart, His Mercy, He desires:

- to **save us** by reconciling us with God, we who are ever tempted to stray (cf. CCC 457);
- to **reveal His Love to us**, a love which is infinite and ordained to our salvation (cf. CCC 458);
- to **be our model of holiness**, for as He reveals Himself, God also reveals us to ourselves, showing us our sublime vocation, which is to become saints (cf. CCC 459);
- to **make us partakers in His divine nature**, as we are destined to eternal life, we who by grace are His children (cf. CCC 460).

Intertwined to the Gospel and to the redemptive work that Our Lord achieves by His Incarnation, Jesus' messages to Saint Faustina are a school and a great call to live under the influence of His Love became flesh and, who for us, gave Himself up on the Cross and was glorified in His Resurrection.

Do we not read in the Diary, book telling us about Jesus' messages to Saint Faustina:

“Secretary of My most profound mystery, know that yours is an exclusive intimacy with Me. Your task is to write down everything that I make known to you about My mercy, for the benefit of those who by reading these things will be comforted in their souls and will have the courage to approach Me.” (Diary, 1693)

And,

“In the Old Covenant I sent prophets wielding thunderbolts to My people. Today I am sending you with My mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My Merciful Heart. I use punishment when they themselves force Me to do so; My hand is reluctant to take hold of the sword of justice. Before the Day of Justice, I am sending the Day of Mercy.” (Diary, 1588)

Thus, dear friends, Jesus' message to Saint Faustina is a call to conversion, an invitation to love Love, who is not loved because of the hardness of our hearts, and to move forward with trust and humility toward Jesus, only He can save us.

Confiding us in the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Mercy, and of Saint Faustina, I ask the Lord to send upon each one of you His kindly blessing.

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Father Stéphane Roy