

The Hearts of Jesus and Mary The Kiss Given by Mercy to Justice



Mary is also the one who obtained mercy in a particular and exceptional way, as no other person has. At the same time, still in an exceptional way, she made possible with the sacrifice of her heart her own sharing in revealing God's mercy. This sacrifice is intimately linked with the cross of her Son, at the foot of which she was to stand on Calvary. Her sacrifice is a unique sharing in the revelation of mercy, that is, a sharing in the absolute fidelity of God to His own love, to the covenant that He willed from eternity and that He entered into in time with man, with the people, with humanity; it is a sharing in that revelation that was definitively fulfilled through the cross. *No one has experienced, to the same degree as the Mother of the crucified One, the mystery of the cross, the overwhelming encounter of divine transcendent justice with love: that 'kiss' given by mercy to justice. No one has received into his heart, as much as Mary did, that mystery, that truly divine dimension of the redemption effected on Calvary by means of the death of the Son, together with the sacrifice of her maternal heart, together with her definitive "fiat."*

(St. John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Dives in Misericordia*, The Mercy of God, November 30, 1980, Pg. 30).

The kiss given by mercy to justice! What a magnificent description of God's eternal covenant with man, so dearly celebrated this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy which calls us to a circumcision of our hearts and a constant renewal of our covenant with God and with one another. Jesus is the Face of God's eternal love and mercy. Mary, His Mother, is the first fruits of that mercy, for she was preserved from all sin from the first moment of her conception in anticipation of Christ's death on the cross, a sorrow and grace she would share in as no other. When Adam and Eve sinned, justice drove them from the garden of paradise and sentenced them to the just wages of sin and its separation from God, a sentence passed on to all their posterity. An offense against the divine demanded a divine satisfaction, and human perpetration demanded a human representative to pay mankind's debt. God, in His eternal love and mercy, willed His new and definitive covenant with man wherein His own divine Son would enter our world, assume our humanity and die in our place to pay the human debt of sin **and** fulfill

divine justice. As the God-man, Jesus would bridge the enormous chasm sin created between God and man. In Jesus' perfect sacrifice, all creation would be made new again. Man would be reconciled to God and the gates of heaven, the paradise that never ends, would be reopened to mankind. As Adam, the first man, was shaped from the dust of the earth, so Jesus, the new Adam, was shaped from the dust of our flesh. As Eve, mother of all the living in the order of nature, was taken from the side of Adam, close to his heart, so Mary was placed at the side of Jesus, companion to His Heart in His work of redemption. She was present to Him from the first moment of His conception to His last breath on Calvary where Christ gave her to us to be our Mother, too. Mary is the new Eve, mother of all who are reborn in grace in the family of God.

How fitting that Pope Francis convened this Year of Mercy on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015, which honors the unique privilege of Mary that prepared her from eternity to be the purest Ark in flesh to bear the Son of the living God, the Eternal High Priest, the Bread of Life, the New Lawgiver, into our world as the definitive covenant for our salvation through the forgiveness of sin and the Commandment of Love. St. Thomas Aquinas stated that God's work of forgiveness is an even greater work than all the marvels of creation. Mary, the Immaculate Virgin-Mother, has given flesh and blood to the infinite Mercy of God incarnate in Jesus.

Mary, then, is the one who has the deepest knowledge of the mystery of God's mercy. She knows its price, she knows how great it is. In this sense, we call her the Mother of mercy: our Lady of mercy, or Mother of divine mercy; in each one of these titles there is a deep theological meaning, for they express the special preparation of her soul, of her whole personality, so that she was able to perceive, through the complex events first of Israel, then of every individual and of the whole of humanity, that mercy of which "from generation to generation" people become sharers according to the eternal design of the most Holy Trinity. ...Through her hidden and at the same time incomparable sharing in the messianic mission of her Son, she was called in a special way to bring close to people that love which he had come to reveal: the love that finds its most concrete expression via-a-vis the suffering, the poor, those deprived of their own freedom, the blind, the oppressed and sinners ... In her and through her, this [merciful] love ...continues to be revealed in the history of the church and of humanity. This revelation is especially fruitful because in the Mother of God it is based upon the unique tact of her maternal heart, on her particular sensitivity, on her particular fitness to reach all those who most easily accept the merciful love of a mother. This is one of the great life-giving mysteries of Christianity, a mystery intimately connected with the mystery of the Incarnation.

The motherhood of Mary in the order of grace...lasts without interruption from the consent which she faithfully gave at the annunciation and which she sustained without hesitation under the cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. (*Dives in Misericordia*, Pgs. 30-31.)

Mary, like Jesus, is a holy door into the sanctuary of God's infinite treasury of grace. A true mother, she intercedes constantly with Jesus on our behalf. Human history records how man, made in God's image with intellect and free will, often confuses his intellect with Satan's lies and hardens his will in self-worshipping opposition to God, thus breaking covenant with God again and again. Over and over, God beckons us from our idolatrous and adulterous ways back to Him. When we refuse Him, He sends us His Mother, trusting we cannot resist a mother's plea. In locutions with Jesus, Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil speaks of this call to conversion and return to God in the message of Our Lady of America®.

"The Voice of My Heart is the Voice of Mercy..." I am a Beggar for love...and I receive only the crumbs no other would accept...Return, My people, for My Heart hungers and thirsts for your love. The false prophets and self-proclaimed Messiahs are drawing many away from Me, the Way, the Truth and the Life. I am the true Messiah who was sent and the only one proclaimed as such by My Father. Seek Me for I only am truth. I only am the Christ." [July 13, 1981]

"The Word of God become Man spoke words of healing, forgiveness, kindness and compassion. He spoke harshly only of and to those who by their pride and deceit were leading His people astray."

(Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, Fostoria, OH, Pgs. 4,6,40, 44.)

Sister Mildred wrote on September 27, 1956, that Our Lady appeared to her holding the world in her hands while from her eyes tears flowed upon it, as though she longed to cleanse it from its guilt. **(The Diary, pg. 12)** Our Lady stated:

"I am the Mother of the sacred humanity, and it is my special work as co-redemptrix of the human race to help souls reach the sanctity of the Father in eternal union by showing them how to put on Christ, to imbibe his Spirit, and thus become one with Him." ..."But to make your hearts grow more and more like to the Heart of the Son, you must go to the Mother, whose heart is most like His. From this Pure and Immaculate Heart you will learn all that will make you more pleasing to the Divine Heart of the Son of God. The Holy Trinity looks down with infinite delight upon such souls and makes them Its heaven upon earth." ... "My heart, my Immaculate Heart, is the channel through which the graces of the Sacred Heart are given to men."

"I plead with you to listen to my voice. Cleanse your souls in the Precious Blood of My Son. Live in His Heart, and take me in that I may teach you to live in great purity of heart which is so pleasing to God. ...I am the Immaculate One, Patroness of your land. Be my faithful children as I have been your faithful Mother." (The Diary, Pgs. 24, 16, 18, 12.)

Saint Faustina, in her diary, **Divine Mercy in My Soul**, explains that Jesus wants us to understand that God's love is unlimited and His mercy unfathomable. Just imagine if Judas had asked for Christ's forgiveness like Peter and the other apostles did!

“I am Love and Mercy itself.” (1074) “My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners”...(367) “Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.” (699) “My mercy is greater than your sins, and those of the entire world.” (1485) “I never reject a contrite heart.” (1485) Sooner would heaven and earth turn into nothingness than would My mercy not embrace a trusting soul.” (1777) The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy.” (723.) “Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace.” (1074)

Again in 1957 Mary, as Our Lady of America®, spoke to Sister Mildred Neuzil regarding her role as Mediatrix of grace, the channel through which Christ’s mercy and grace flows upon mankind.

“It is the darkest hour. But if men will come to me, my Immaculate Heart will make it right again with the mercy which my Son will rain down through my hands. Help me save those who will not save themselves. Help me bring once again the sunshine of God’s peace upon the world. (The Diary, Pg. 15.)

In May of that same year Sister Mildred wrote that Our Lady showed herself to her as the Mother of Mercy. With her arms extended and her blue mantle affording a safe refuge for the sinner, she said:

“I am the Mother of Mercy. Under my mantle I will hide my children. The justice of God will not reach them if they seek refuge beneath the protection of my mercy. My Son gives to me all those souls who come to me with confidence, calling upon my aid. Their salvation is in my hands. I will obtain for them the necessary graces to save their souls. Come to me, poor, suffering and frightened ones. I am your Mother. Never will I forsake you. Only come to me with a wholehearted and loving trust. Place your souls into my keeping. I am that faithful Mother who never forsakes her children. Honor me by your confidence and love. This I desire and ask of you my poor children. Do not deny the wishes of your Mother.”

I am the Mother of Mercy!

“Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace.” ... Jesus

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