



Pick Up : DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

I will never forget the time doing prison ministry when a Protestant evangelical inmate gifted to me the true value of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. He was a former Aryan Brotherhood gang member, covered in Nazi tattoos that, since his conversion to Christianity 18 months earlier, he was trying to get removed. He stood up to thank us for serving and loving him and said:

“I’m still not too sure about you Catholics with the Rosary. I’m iffy when it comes to Mary-stuff, but this Divine Mercy Chaplet... wow! You know what I love the most about it? It’s ordered. It’s simple. It’s all about the cross and mercy of Jesus Christ. But it’s ordered, and when I pray it, I feel like my mind and heart are being put in order. And, let’s be honest, we are all in here because there is so much disorder in our lives. I will pray this chaplet every day. Thank you!”

The Divine Mercy Chaplet was given to the world through the writings of Saint Sister Faustina, a Polish nun who received a series of visions of our Lord that focuses on his mercy. The painting that came from her experience is famous. It depicts Jesus stepping over the threshold of a door, one hand touching his heart and the other raised in blessing. From his sacred heart comes two rays, one of white and one of red. The white symbolizes his grace and the red, his mercy, bought for us with the price of his own shed blood. This is the essence of what the chaplet seeks to communicate to us.

Short, simple, and ordered, the chaplet allows you to return, time and again, to the central mystery of the Christian Life: the Cross of Christ. At the center of God’s union with humanity lies the cross, the terrible symbol of man’s inhumanity to man, but also, paradoxically, of God’s indomitable love for us.

How to Pray the Simple Form of the Divine Mercy Chaplet :

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed on normal rosary beads. There are other optional prayers that are often said and I would encourage you to maybe incorporate them as well.

On the Our Father: “Eternal Father, I offer to you the body, blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.”

On the Hail Mary: “For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

On the Glory Be: “Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.” x3