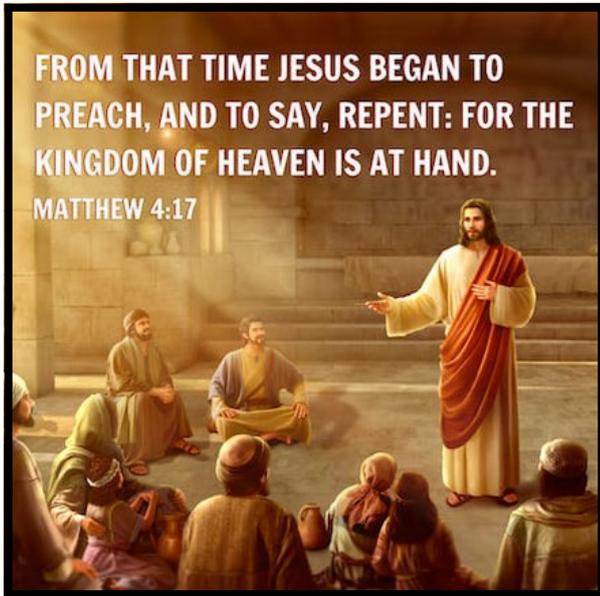


Conversion and Confession

"The greater the sinner, the greater his right to God's Mercy"

(Diary 423)

WEEK FOUR



As you can see from the theme, this program was created to motivate sinners to repent, convert, confess and go to the Feast of Divine Mercy on April 11th 2021, to then be as clean and pure as a second after baptism. But who are we talking about? Of sinners? Obviously.... But I'm not a sinner, one or two of us would say. But I don't kill anyone, I don't steal and I don't bother anyone. Sinner I? No.... and yet, and yet ... one must not be a murderer, someone who robs banks, who slaughters women, a mobster, a narco to be a sinner.

"God never violates our free will. It's up to us to decide whether or not to receive God's grace. It's up to us to decide whether to cooperate with it or waste it."

So wrote Santa Faustina in n. 1107 in her diary. Well, she pointed her finger at the cause of a person's change, who was born pure, humble, good, into a sinner. With our decision not to receive the grace of God, to reject it, with our decision not to cooperate with it and to waste it, we made the decision to live a life of sinners.

But who says that one must convert? Well, let's read the holy gospel of St. Matthew 4: 12-13, 17
12 Having heard that John had been arrested, Jesus retired to Galilee 13 and left Nazareth and came to live in Capernaum, by the sea, in the territory of Zabbulon and Naphtali.

17 From then Jesus began to preach and say: "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near".

You see? Jesus said so. And when he spoke, he did not first select sinners from the crowd to offer this encouragement to them, but he said it to everyone who listened to him. We are all sinners. One thing is certain: Conversion is not something that happens in a particular moment of our life, and it is done: there is no: I converted, now I am no longer a sinner. In fact, many people believe in this: But are you serious? you are converted? But you are always the same.... Well, they don't know, that conversion is a continuous denial of oneself, to do the will of the Father... .. Little by little, the relapses will decrease until reaching a high degree of holiness, with the help of God.

The question: but why is this Jesus looking for me? Why? It seems to be a surreal question But what does he have to have with me.... Why does he not leave me alone? Listen to what Jesus himself said about it ... Let's take the Gospel of Saint John and read in chapter 6, verses 37 - 40 this:

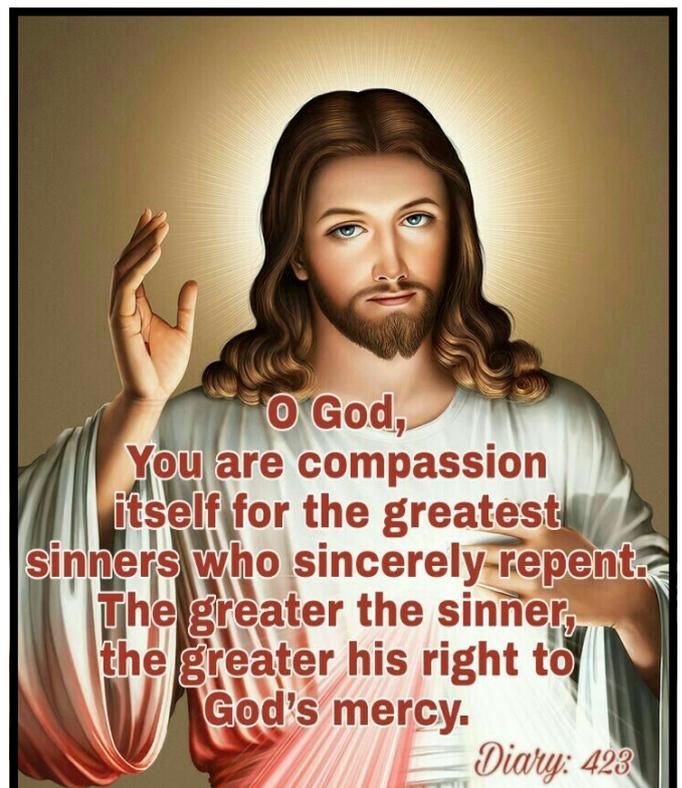
37 All that the Father gives me will come to me; he who comes to me, I will not reject him, 38 because I came down from heaven not to do my will, but the will of the one who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I lose nothing of what he has given me, but raise him up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that whoever sees the Son and believes in him has eternal life; I will raise him up on the last day. "

As we see in this passage, Jesus confirms that the will of the Father is that no soul is lost. And how? The key word is: conversion ... Jesus asks for conversion.

But what does conversion mean, what does converting consist of?

What should I do?

It is not an easy thing





The most important thing to do to solve a problem is to admit that one has a problem.

Once one has acknowledged that he has a problem, he seeks the solution. And once found, it must be applied.

First a feeling of shame, of annihilation must arise in us, we are aware that we are far from God, an unparalleled sadness, called *Anima afflicta*. Then, an intense pain in the soul, which is also expressed through the body, such as, for example, tears and cries, abdominal pains and much more, for having offended Jesus, the one who died on the cross for us for love. This pain does not give us peace, it does not give us respite until we raise our eyes and see Jesus. He does not ask us for a poetic prayer, to put things right. No, dear listeners, what Jesus wants from us, is humility, to kneel before Him and surrender our life to Him, that is, to do His will. To use our free will in His favor, to choose Him and not our ego, therefore to humble ourselves before God.

This would not be enough if these feelings were not accompanied by a sincere intention not to offend God ever again.

With a contrite heart, with the awareness of having offended Jesus with our way of life, with the head bowed and kneeling, pronouncing the intention not to continue to live in a sinful way, looking for Jesus, that is infinitely good and merciful, we approach the confessional and ask for forgiveness.

Every sin is an expression of pride: this time, dear God, I do what I want

The antidote to pride is humility. Admitting that we were wrong, and telling a man we barely know, the confessor, every single mistake, we make a tremendous act of humility. At that precise moment we sacrifice self-love, and we sink into the immense sea of Divine Mercy, asking, begging for His forgiveness.

Shall I convert? But not in my dreams, God was never in my life.

And then, even if I want to convert, would He forgive me my sins?

They are so many and so serious, that I don't think that He will forgive me, ever. I sinned in a big way, and more than once ...

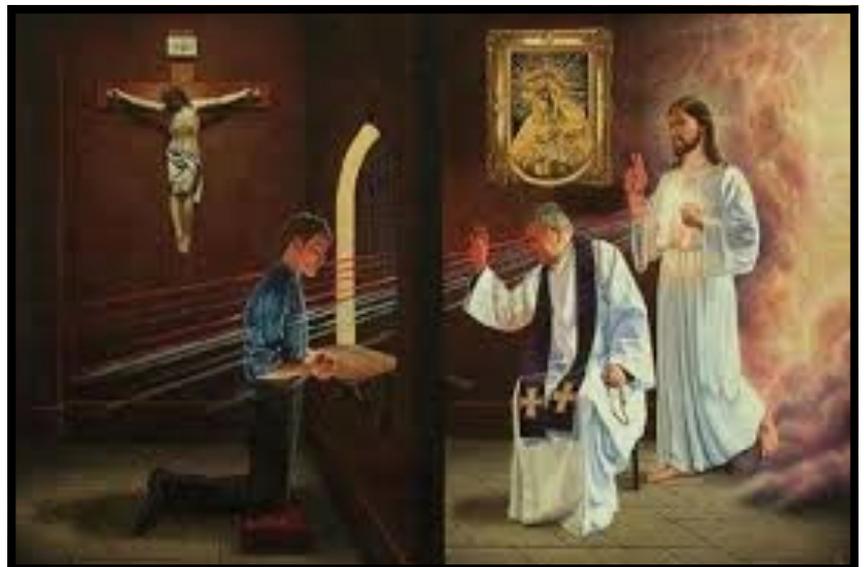
Neeeee, he won't forgive me.

To the sinner's typical lack of confidence to be forgiven of his sins, dear listeners, Jesus has already provided an answer.

Jesus says to Saint Faustina: "Write, speak of My Mercy. Tell the souls where they have to seek consolations, that is, in the tribunal of Mercy, the greatest miracles occur that are repeated over and over again. To obtain this miracle, it is not necessary to make pilgrimages to distant lands, nor to celebrate solemn external rites, but it is enough to place yourself with faith at the feet of one of my representatives and confess his own misery and the miracle of Divine Mercy will manifest in all its fullness. Even if a soul were decomposing like a corpse and humanly there was no possibility of resurrection and everything was lost, it would not be so for God: a miracle of Divine Mercy will resurrect this soul in all its fullness. Unhappy those who do not take advantage of this miracle of Divine Mercy! You will invoke him in vain, when it is too late! "

"Daughter, when you approach the holy confession, to this source of My Mercy, My Blood and Water always descend on your soul, which came out of My Heart and ennoble your soul. Every time you go to the Holy Confession, immerse yourselves completely in My Mercy with great confidence, so that I can pour an abundance of My graces on your soul. When you go to confession, know that I myself am waiting for you in the confessional, I cover myself only behind the priest, but it is I who works in the soul. There the misery of the soul meets the God of Mercy. Tell the souls that from this source of Mercy they can draw graces only with the vessel of trust. If their trust is great, My generosity will have no limits. The streams of My grace flood the humble souls. The proud are always in poverty and misery, because My grace moves away from them and goes towards humble souls. "

Jesus reassures us that no matter how great the sins the sinner has done or is doing. The blacker and more scarlet his sins are, the greater his right to Divine Mercy, confirms Jesus. My Mercy is greater, greater than the most heinous sin.





Saint Faustina prayed in this way, when meditating over the approach that Jesus has towards those, who seek is forgiveness, moved by a contrite heart:

“O God of compassion, You alone can justify me, and You will never reject me when I, contrite, approach Your Merciful Heart, where no one has ever been refused, even if he were the greatest sinner.” (*Diary 1730*)

INVITATION

After we learned how important it is, to ask God for forgiveness for one's sins, we would have to go to confession, where Jesus himself is waiting for us with open arms, ready to forgive us and remit our sins.

Here are some questions, so we can ponder where we stand on this challenge.

1. Who has the greatest right to His mercy? (Journal # 723)
2. How much do you appreciate the gift of the Sacrament of reconciliation?
3. Why are sincerity and openness in the confessional important?