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## Divine mercy for the sick and dying

Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the Sick and the Dying Jesus said: "My daughter, encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given to you. It pleases Me to grant everything they ask of Me by saying the chaplet. ... Write that when they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the merciful Savior. (Diary, 1541) At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the indulgence is the same." (Diary, 811) Pray as much as you can for the dying. By your entreaties [that is, insistent prayers], obtain for them trust in My mercy, because they have most need of trust, and have it the least. Be assured that the grace of eternal salvation for certain souls in their final moment depends on your prayer. You know the whole abyss of My mercy, so draw upon it for yourself and especially for poor sinners. Sooner would Heaven and earth turn into nothingness than would My mercy not embrace a trusting soul." (Diary, 1777) In Eucharistic Adoration Chapels around the world, adorers pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the sick and dying, and they are part of an International Registry established by the ministry. Moreover, on the occasion of the Great Jubilee of the year 2000, the Holy Father, St. Pope John Paul II, by a personally signed parchment, imparted a Special Apostolic Blessing "to all the faithful who, during Adoration of Our Most Merciful Savior in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar, will be praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the sick and for those throughout the world who will be dying in that hour." In regard to your eternal salvation, the hour of your death is so very important. When you pray the "Hail Mary" prayer, you pray specifically for this sacred hour. It is a holy hour. But it is also an hour when the evil one will lash out at you one more time to try to steal your soul for all eternity. It is essential that you spend your life preparing for this sacred hour by your prayers, a life of sacrifice, and a life of charity. But it is also essential that you pray for those who are in their last hour. For some, this is a moment of true spiritual battle. See it as a duty of charity to regularly remember those who are in their last hour in your prayers. They will thank you in Heaven (See Diary #1798). Reflect upon your death this day, and especially try to pray the rosary for this moment. Consider, also, making a commitment to pray for those who are dying. Death brings many temptations, such as fear, and is a time when much grace is needed. Pray that every soul, including your own, will enter this hour with confidence and faith, trusting in the abundant Mercy of God. Lord, I offer You my last hour in this life and pray for all those who will face this moment today. May it be a sweet hour in which we are surrounded by Your angels and saints. May we especially receive the consolation of knowing the prayers of Your dear Mother at this moment. Mother Mary, pray for us, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Jesus, I trust in You. Are you ready for a new year? Daily Reflections on Divine Mercy: 365 Days with Saint Faustina begins January 1. As we prepare for this new year of God's mercy, we invite you to invite family and friends to join us on this journey! Invite them to join us by: Share the abundant mercy of God with family and friends this new year! Table of Contents Structure of this Book Introduction for Priests More Divine Mercy Reflections Daily Gospel Reflections Saints/Feasts for Today Featured image above: Our Lady of the Rosary Available as eBook & Paperback Click for All Sharing Options As we enter the third millennium, we realize that few understand the great gift of the Eucharist and of His Real Presence- that is, Jesus is present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Blessed Sacrament. Any reading on Divine Mercy must include the Eucharist, as they are one and the same. The Divine Mercy Incarnate is Jesus, and Jesus is the Eucharist. We encourage recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet in Adoration Chapels worldwide for the sick and dying, as well as for the intentions and needs of the Marians of The Immaculate Conception and their Associate Members worldwide. Saint Faustina recorded in her spiritual diary these words, "Once, when I was going down the hall to the kitchen, I heard these words in my soul." Say unceasingly the chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know my infinite mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy" (Diary, 687). And on another occasion, "At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the indulgence is the same. When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person, God's anger is placated, unfathomable mercy envelops the soul, and the very depths of My tender mercy are moved for the sake of the sorrowful Passion of My Son" (Diary, 811). In 1997, after hearing a homily on having the trust of a child, Paul Regan of Malden, MA, reflected on Jesus' magnificent promise that one could obtain mercy for the dying by means of praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. He wondered if the promise were applicable if the intercessor [the person offering the prayer] was not physically present at the bedside of the dying persons. The following experience recorded in her Diary by St. Faustina answered his question. She wrote: "It sometimes happens that the dying person is in the second or third building away, yet for the spirit space and time does not exist. It sometimes happens that I know about a death occurring several hundred kilometers away. This has happened several times with regard to my family and relatives and also sisters in religion, and even souls whom I have not known during their lifetime (Diary, 835). And again: "My contact with the dying is, just as it has been in the past, very close. I often accompany a person who is dying far away, but my greatest joy is when I see the promise of mercy fulfilled in these souls. The Lord is faithful. What He ordains- He fulfills (Diary, 935). On January 18, 1998, the first Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel for the Sick and Dying was established at St. Agnes parish in Chicago Heights, Illinois. On October 31st, 1999, His Holiness Pope John Paul II, by a personally signed parchment, imparted a Special Apostolic Blessing, "On The Occasion of The Great Jubilee of The Year 2000, To All The Faithful who during Adoration of Our Most Merciful Savior in The Most Blessed Sacrament of The Altar will be praying The Divine Mercy Chaplet for the sick and for those throughout the world who will be dying in that hour, I impart, as a token of an abundance of divine graces, My Heartfelt Apostolic Blessing." We ask that Chapels participating recite aloud or pray silently the Litany of Reparation, An Act of Spiritual Communion, The Divine Praises, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. If adorers in a Chapel wish to participate, please notify them at Tampa@thedivinemercy.org and we will send you a copy of the Papal Blessing to hang in your Chapel. Our new pamphlet entitled The Divine Mercy Chaplet for the Sick and Dying During Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, is now available through the Marian Helpers Association and can be ordered by calling 1-800-462-7426. It explains St. Faustina's special love for the dying, the Divine Mercy Chaplet as an Eucharistic prayer, and Eucharistic Adoration and the Real Presence. All adorers should have one, as well as those involved in parish work as an Eucharistic Minister, and nursing home or hospital visitation. Please help us spread this devotion, for our mission, as was Bl. Faustina's, is in saving souls. And we know that the Eucharist is food for our spiritual journey. Not only are we to receive and adore the Eucharist, we must live the Eucharist. We are to let the rays of mercy from the monstrance pass through us and go out through the entire world. We are to be icons of mercy, radiating love and mercy to others. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy This devotion uses ordinary rosary beads and begins with: Our Father, Hail Mary and The Apostles' Creed. On the large bead before each decade of the Rosary say: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and 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 ten, small beads of each decade say: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. After praying for five decades, conclude by saying three times: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Source: Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet during Eucharistic Adoration for the Intentions of the Sick and the Dying. From The Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET FOR THE SICK AND THE DYING Twenty-five years ago, Dr. Bryan Thatcher was a young physician with a very successful medical practice. He still remembers how he felt the day a young alcoholic bled to death in his arms. Physically, he had done all he could for him. But on a spiritual level, he had the sense he had missed an important opportunity. Dr. Bryan Thatcher "I was so distraught," Dr. Thatcher said. "I didn't know back then, but I could have helped usher him into Eternal Glory." At that time, this man of medicine would never have guessed that he was destined to become founder and director of a ministry known as the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy (EADM). It would never have crossed his mind that this ministry would encourage people the world over to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the sick and dying - people very much like his young alcoholic patient. Members of the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy prayer group in Dallas. With Dr. Thatcher's then-secular mindset, he also could never have imagined that EADM would eventually become an apostolate of the religious order that runs the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, Mass., officially known as the Congregation of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception (MIC). Nor could he have believed that the EADM would give birth to 4,000 prayer groups in the U.S. alone and activity in 45 countries - and the apostolate is still growing! All that and a lot more was hidden from the young doctor's eyes. All he knew then was that his marriage was falling apart because he was never home. He also says that, back then, he thought being a great dad consisted in giving his kids anything they wanted to make up for the time he wasn't spending with them. Fortunately, a friend saw that this physician of the body needed some medicine for the soul and gave him a copy of a book many Catholics in the U.S. would eventually come to know and love: "The Diary of St. Faustina." "As I began to get into the Diary, the fonts used to jump out at me," says Dr. Thatcher, who was at EWTN recently filming two episodes of "At Home with Jim & Joy," which you can find here: and here . "It was medication - balm - for a wounded heart. ... One of my favorite quotes [from the Diary] was [Jesus' declaration that]: 'The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy.'" (Diary, 723) In tears, Dr. Thatcher told the Lord he would go wherever he wanted him to go. As many a Catholic knows, that was all the Lord was waiting to hear! At 15 months old, John Paul Thatcher, fruit of a healed marriage, almost died. This little boy is now 20 years old. Sometimes, we imagine that, as soon as we turn our hearts to Jesus, nothing bad will ever happen to us again. However, it's more likely that this will result in an infusion of grace that helps us handle the path that lies ahead. As a result of his healed marriage, Dr. Thatcher and his wife were soon blessed with the birth of a son, John Paul, who nearly died at birth. For a time, all was well. "When he was 15 months old, I had come back from a conference in Denver and was getting ready for a Mass in my home. We have a swimming pool with a screened in enclosure. My oldest boy, 11 years old, asked me if I could start the lawn mower. I did that, and then my daughters asked me to take them to swim practice. Twenty minutes later, little John Paul was dead. Someone had left the gate open [and he drowned in the pool.] I was in a state of shock. I told them to call 911. My wife is a nurse. She started CPR. The girls were praying and crying." The ambulance arrived. The family drove to the hospital. "We hit every red light. I was praying my heart out." As Dr. Thatcher prayed, he remembered that just the day before he had been telling people at a conference to pray, "Jesus, I trust in You." He also remembered the Scripture verse in which Abraham offers Isaac to God. He told himself, he had to have the faith of Abraham. In his mind, he walked his son up a mountainside and gave his son, "the apple of my eye, the fruit of a healed marriage," back to God. The ambulance arrived. His wife, who had ridden in the ambulance, had gotten a weak pulse. Dr. Thatcher's prayer group also heard about the accident and joined the family in prayer. John Paul began to heal. "I took him home - normal - a few days later," he said. "I saw my sister at Thanksgiving. She told me they had prayed for John Paul the night of the accident. She said the next morning, her best friend Norma said, "Don't worry. Everything will be fine. I saw a vision of Abraham giving Isaac to God, and Jesus giving him back!" As Dr. Thatcher pondered over the Divine Mercy messages, and his own private miracles, he began to realize how profoundly Eucharistic the message of Divine Mercy is. He and his family began to tour Eucharistic miracle sites around the world. "All I wanted to do was tell people of God's Mercy; that he loves us right where we are, not where we feel we need to be." Over the years, the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy (EADM) have shipped 44 containers containing several hundred thousand dollars worth of donated medical supplies to India, the Philippines, countries in Africa, and more. "We throw so much stuff away in America," said EADM Founder and Director Dr. Bryan Thatcher. "Hospitals, hospices call me. I have two containers on the grounds of [my church here in the U.S.] When I get a full load, people load it and off it goes!" Dr. Thatcher says this is another part of "living the Divine Mercy message."In the mid-90s, Dr. Thatcher said he contacted the Marians as well as St. Faustina's former convent in Poland, and asked if they had a formation program for lay people. Neither of them did, so Dr. Thatcher started a prayer group at his own home in Brandon, Florida, which would become the future EADM's first cenacle. The group only read five pages a week, so it took several years to get through the whole book," he said. "We had a format: a prayer, faith sharing, more prayer, the chaplet and some social time." When the group became part of the Marians in 1999, that format became more formal. Dr. Thatcher was asked to integrate Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church into the meetings and a program of spiritual formation was developed. As Dr. Thatcher read the Diary with his prayer group, he began to realize how often Jesus talked to St. Faustina about praying with the sick and dying. In fact, one of the key promises to those who pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at the bedside of the sick and dying is that Jesus will meet the dying person as a merciful Savior and not as the just Judge! Last summer, Dr. Bryan Thatcher, founder and director of the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy, visited the Solomon Islands where he spoke with representatives from every parish and three dioceses and was warmly welcomed by the Archbishop. "They'll be starting Divine Mercy prayer groups," Thatcher said. Dr. Thatcher wanted to know more. "What if my wife is in an accident in Florida," he asked, "and I'm in Alabama. If I say the Chaplet and I'm not at her bedside, will the promise still hold?" Who could tell him the answer to that question? Dr. Thatcher had previously managed to get an apostolic blessing for those saying the chaplet in reparation for infants dying in the womb. (For more information on this, please go to . He made that request after reading that, on several occasions, St. Faustina had suffered the passion for three days. The Lord told her it was to make reparation for those infants. However, Dr. Thatcher now hoped to get a papal blessing for those who would say the chaplet for the sick and dying, even if they were not by the person's bedside! "In 2003, a Polish priest came to me in Jacksonville for some medical care," Dr. Thatcher said. "I hadn't thought about the papal blessing for a year. In my office, the priest said, 'Is there anything I can do for you?' I said, 'Why don't you ask the Pope for a papal blessing [for those who say the Chaplet for the sick and dying]?' The priest said, 'The Pope will never grant that to you.' I said, 'Okay, I just want you to ask.'" The priest later called him from Rome, saying that he was preparing to see the Pope the next day. However, he reiterated that there was no way the Pope was going to give Dr. Thatcher the papal blessing he sought. Can you guess what happened? "The next day, the priest called me and said, 'The Pope saw the blessing, loved it, and signed it on the spot!'" (Click here to read the blessing: Today, people in more than 1,000 chapels around the U.S. pray the chaplet during Adoration for the sick and dying. Dr. Thatcher is currently trying to get parishes to set up teams of three Eucharistic Ministers to go to the bedside of fellow parishioners who are sick and dying. "If a family calls, you want the priest, of course. But you also want the Church [in the person of the laity] to be more present to the sick and dying." Dr. Thatcher knows firsthand the importance of prayer at the beginning and the end of life (and everywhere in between). He helped care for his father during the last years of his life. Members of a Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy cenacle (prayer group) in Milwaukee. "I was doing this while working, doing ministry, and taking care of my family," he said. "I look back and think, 'How did I ever do all that?' But it was the happiest time of my life. My dad used to call me frequently, particularly in the last few months and say, 'What are you doing?' I'd say, 'Just working Dad.' Those days are gone. No more calls. No taking him out for ice cream. We're here just a short time." Dr. Thatcher admits that being a caregiver isn't always easy. "When you get that eighth call within an hour - well, we're human. It's difficult work. That's why we have to have that spiritual foundation." Today, Dr. Thatcher's ministry includes travels to some of the poorest countries in the world bringing needed supplies to people from the EADMs and teaching the importance of LIVING the message of Divine Mercy. Prayer provides the foundation for the action in this merciful outreach - and that's the complete spiritual package that membership in EADM provides. Through the grace of God, Dr. Bryan Thatcher, founder and director of the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy, says his group was able to ship this 18-foot one-ton statue of the Divine Mercy to Rwanda in 2004. The group also sent clothing, religious items, and medical supplies for the local people and raised needed monies to purchase a microscope for the medical clinic in Kibeho. If you are interested in joining or starting a cenacle in your area, please go to and to . You can also watch a cenacle in action by investing in this 13-part series on EWTN: as well as its accompanying EWTN Cenacle Guide at . Jesus, I trust in You!

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