

Hello, I am Deacon Alan from the Arch Diocese of Boston, and I am from St. Isidore in Middleboro. Today I want to talk to you about the Image and the Hour of Divine Mercy.

How this image came to be is like everything else in divine mercy. It came from the words of Jesus himself. Entry 47 of the diary sister Faustina describes seeing Jesus and describes him clothed in a white garment, with one hand raised in blessing us, the other at his breast slightly pulling back his garment where two large rays, one red and the other pale. These rays are the blood and water that come forth from his heart when he was lanced on the cross. one foot stepping forward coming to us. Now at this time Jesus said to sister Faustina, **“Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus I trust in you. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and then throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over its enemies already hear on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory.”**

Sister Faustina worked with the artist to make sure he had every detail, but she was very upset at first because the painting did not capture the beauty of Jesus. But Jesus told her, **“Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace.”** Jesus wants us to look upon this image with love, He himself in the diary said that this is the same gaze he had on the cross. It is Jesus giving everything for us, and now in His glory he offers us even more. He wants us to know when we look on this image that there is nothing he won't forgive, that all the grace we need He will give us for the asking. Jesus said, **he is delighted when souls appeal to His mercy, so much so he said “I grant even more graces than they ask, I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion” 1146.** There are many different

images of this picture. The image on this web page is the one sister Faustian guided the artist to paint. But all the Divine Mercy images are fine. Like Jesus said it's not the exactness of the image it's how he appeared to her, showing His heart that pours His grace on us. Every home in my opinion should have this image somewhere.

Now the hour of mercy what is that? The hour of Mercy in 3 in the afternoon. Why this time? Because this is the time that Jesus died on the cross and his heart pierced with a lance. Jesus said to sister Faustina in entry 1572, **“I remind you, My daughter, that as often as you hear the clock strike the third hour, immerse yourself completely in my mercy. For at that moment mercy was opened wide for every soul. In this hour you can obtain everything for yourself and for others for the asking; it was the hour of grace for the whole world, mercy triumphed over justice.”** Jesus asked sister Faustina to say the station of the cross at that time if she was able if not he asked her to stop in the chapel and pray, and even if she couldn't do that, He asked just very briefly pause and remember what he did for us. That is the point of the Hour, to stop and just remember that he gave his life for us that he was tortured and killed for us, to free us from the slavery of sin and to reconnect us to his Father. I don't think that is a lot to ask do you?

If you want an easy way to remember Divine Mercy Sunday and its devotions think of the word F.I.N.C.H. And that stands for Feast, Image, Novena, Chaplet, and Hour.