

TRUST IN THE LORD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

Mother Adela, sctjm-Foundress

HISTORY IS IMBUED BY THE MERCY OF GOD EVEN IN THE DARKEST HOURS

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in his general audience on May 11, 2005 said: "history is not in the hands of the powers of darkness, chance or human decisions alone. When the evil forces that we see are unleashed, when Satan vehemently bursts in, when a multitude of scourges and ills surface, **the Lord, the supreme arbiter of historical events and tribulations, arises.** God is not indifferent to human suffering, on the contrary He penetrates them realizing "his ways, his plans of love and his work of salvation. Good always conquers over evil! (Rom 12)



In his book *Memory and Identity*, St. John Paul II, who lived the terrible dramas of the last century and was deeply touched by the spectacle of the power of evil, which we have all dramatically experienced and continue to see its terrible effects in society and in our culture, said: "The evil... was not a small-scale evil.... It was an evil of gigantic proportions, an evil which availed itself of state structures in order to accomplish its wicked work, an evil built up into a system" (p. 189).

St. JPII remembered how often he was asked or he asked himself: Might evil be invincible? Is it the ultimate power of history? Is there a limit against the power of evil? "Yes, there is", the Pope replied: The **power that imposes a limit on evil is Divine Mercy.** Violence, the display of evil, is opposed in history to God's love which becomes for us a love manifested as Divine Mercy. The Lamb is stronger than the dragon, we could say together with the Book of Revelation. Yes indeed, the Lamb, Jesus, Mercy himself triumphs over evil by choosing to freely offer Himself for our salvation on the Cross. By allowing His Heart to be pierced, He opened the fountain of salvation to humanity and the gates of heaven for us.

It is the love to the extreme of God-made-man that limits the force of evil; it is this love of the One who embraced and kissed the Cross, which is the power that overcomes it; His love brought Him to kiss the wood upon which He would conquer evil with His love; he would conquer sin with his obedience, he would bring upon us the full effect of redemption; that is why by contemplating Jesus on the Cross, by contemplating the one who was pierced, we can exclaim: Love is stronger than death, love opens fountains of life from where wounds had enslaved us before. "The suffering of the Crucified God is not just one form of suffering alongside others.... In sacrificing himself for us all, Christ gave a new meaning to suffering, opening up a new dimension, a new order: **the order of love....** The passion of Christ on the Cross gave a radically new meaning to suffering, transforming it from within.... It is this suffering which **burns and consumes evil with the flame of love....** All human suffering, all pain, all infirmity contains within itself a promise of salvation; evil is present in the world partly as a consequence of sin, but it has been conquered by love. Therefore, when suffering, when the cross touches our lives, it has the power to awaken our love, our self-gift in generous and disinterested service, to make it an offering for the good of others as Jacinta and Francisco (whose centenary of their deaths we are celebrating this year) Christ has redeemed the world: "By his wounds we are healed' (Is 53: 5)" (p. 189, ff.).



God entered history as a child with the power of love to heal, deliver and redeem; the power to give us a new heart, a new horizon, a new hope.... yes, He penetrated history and transformed it into salvation history, and through personal and social history He realizes his designs of mercy, as the angel of Fatima told the little shepherds. He only needs men and women, children, youth, to say, "YES, we will build with the grace of God, and with the power of His love, a new civilization.... a new culture built with the logic of love and with the power of Divine Mercy." Evil is not the last word, but love is, and love is founded on

trust. We trust in the Lord because we know He loves us, and because we know that the most powerful revelation of Mercy is not only forgiveness, healing, and restoration, but bringing forth from every evil a greater good, as St. Paul says in Romans 8:28-38: We know that all things work for good for those who love God,*

who are called according to his purpose *What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"

These words of St. Paul direct our gaze to the power of God's merciful love, this love which imbues history, our past, present and future. In his Encl. *Dives in Misericordia*, St. John Paul II said: *The true and proper meaning of mercy does not consist only in looking, however penetratingly and compassionately, at moral, physical or material evil: mercy is manifested in its true and proper aspect when it restores to value, promotes and draws good from all the forms of evil existing in the world and in man. Understood in this way, mercy constitutes the fundamental content of the messianic message of Christ and the constitutive power of His mission. His disciples and followers understood and practiced mercy in the same way. Mercy never ceased to reveal itself, in their hearts and in their actions, as an especially creative proof of the love which does not allow itself to be "conquered by evil," but overcomes "evil with good."*⁶² *The genuine face of mercy has to be ever revealed anew. In spite of many prejudices, mercy seems particularly necessary for our times. (DM 5)*



The Merciful Heart of Christ always triumphs! God's love always conquers evil... goodness always conquers the indifference and coldness of many hearts with its creative power; the logic of love always responds to the false arguments of selfishness and superficiality. Wisdom always conquers the empty messages and excessive noise, that the world promotes by all means to impede the capacity of the human person to reason and to discern. Before the heroic choices of love of so many men and women, the arrogance of pride and the culture of death and violence is demolished. Before the men and women who choose to live according to their dignity as children of God and their innate vocation to love and serve, self-referential hearts begin to question the emptiness of their own lives. The world needs witnesses to love, to merciful love. Those *witnesses, who by the coherency of their Christian lives, reveal to humanity the true meaning of life, our origin, our vocation and our greatest destiny.* These witnesses are the ones that write the new chapters of history, are the ones that write chapters of light, hope, faith and love, in a world full of chapters of shadows, errors, despair and hatred.

Divine Mercy is the limit to evil!!!! We cannot forget that in the dark hours of the twenty century, just a few miles away from where concentration camps were being built as cities of death, which established the structure of the culture of death that we still see affecting our civilization, Jesus was appearing to a simple religious sister, St. Faustina, and speaking **powerful words of hope for those who trust in Him.** **These words reminded us that Mercy is the limit to evil, and in the end, love always triumphs!**

In 1931, **our Lord appeared to St. Faustina in a vision.** She saw Jesus clothed in a white garment with His right hand raised in blessing. His left hand was touching His garment in the area of the opened wound of His Heart from where two large rays came forth, one red and the other pale. She gazed intently at the Lord in silence, her soul filled with awe, but also with great joy. Jesus said to her:

Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I have opened My Heart as a living fountain of mercy. Let all souls draw life from it. Let them approach this sea of mercy with great trust (Diary, 1520). On the cross, the fountain of My mercy was opened wide by the lance for all souls — no one have I excluded! (1182). I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You" (327). The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is — trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive (1578).



In the Diary of St. Faustina, we hear Our Lord reminding us that we can Trust completely in His love: **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).**

Trust is a powerful fruit of faith. We believe that we are loved, therefore we trust that he will take care of us with the love of a Father. That if we seek first His Kingdom, all things will be added unto us. That when we face tribulations, we are not to be afraid, since he has conquered the world. Trust in the Lord because he always fulfills his promises, because no word of the Lord returns to him empty, but realizes his designs. **Trust is a living faith and faith has the power to move mountains.**

In our times of so much uncertainty, the Lord in his Mercy gave us an image with the signature: **Jesus, I trust in you.** Let us make this signature of the painting entrusted to St. Faustina, our own signature written in every moment of our lives, so situations, say: **Jesus, I trust in Faustina, the apostle of Mercy My Lord and God, in difficult Your goodness and love for in Your will for me. Jesus, I**



we can always, at all times in all **you.** That we may pray as St. and of Trust in God's Mercy: **times, help me to be aware of me, so I will continue to trust trust in You! Amen.**