



The Armor of Faith
Topic Summary: Divine Mercy
Part I: The Vision



Divine Mercy
Public Domain

Introduction

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican and has a love for music ministry. The Dominicans, I always mention, are also known as the Order of Preachers. Sharon is still our token cradle Catholic on the team, and, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions because they needed something simple for me to do. And this could be the episode where I just might rise to accomplish the simple. We'll see. To answer my questions, correct my pronunciation, and make sure I know which century I am talking about is why we have our panelists, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

Let us open with a prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

Dear Lord, we also lift up the prayers in our prayer basket. You know what is written on each one and you know the hearts of those who offer their thanks and praise as well as their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

We continue to pray for all those who are suffering from the pandemic as well as all those who are working so hard to contain, mitigate, and stop its advance. Help us all, dear Lord, to work together, in unity, and with the blessings of love.

We also lift up special prayers for Adolpho, Katherine, and Dennis. We pray Your healing hand will rest upon them, that You will guide the hearts and hands of their care givers, and that Your hand of comfort shall also rest on all those who love and care for them.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

If you would like to add your prayers to our prayer basket, send us an email at armoroffaithradio@gmail.com. Please include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give it priority and capture it for our prayer basket. Just so you know, Sharon and I lift up our prayers with those in the Armor of Faith Radio prayer basket during our daily prayers.

If you haven't discovered, yet, you can listen to us on any device where you can connect to the Internet, including your smartphone. In addition to wctradio.com/armoroffaith, we are available through a number of streaming services, such as iHeart Radio, Spreaker, iTunes, and CastBox, among others. Simply search for “Armor of Faith Radio” and select the episode you desire. We will be happy to keep you company wherever you are and wherever you are waiting.

We would also like to ask for your assistance to help share our discussions. It is a simple means through which you can help in the evangelization of faith. All you need to do is share the URL, wctradio.com/armoroffaith via email or social media and tell family and friends as well. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options, so we invite you to join the evangelization and help us spread the good news of the Gospel and our faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith Event Announcements:

40 Days for Life: The 40 Days for Life 2020 Spring Campaign remains in progress through 5 Apr 2020, but, as we mentioned last time, the public vigil portion was suspended to enable the pandemic control measures.

Unfortunately, abortion clinics have not left the field and remain open. While some states have directed that non-essential surgeries be stopped to redirect vital medical supplies to the care of the afflicted and suffering, abortion advocates are screaming that abortion is essential and abortion clinics must be kept open. What they are saying is that killing children in the womb takes priority to caring for the suffering and afflicted. I would invite everyone to let that sink in a moment as to the mind set of the advocates for the culture of death – their priority is not the suffering, but the killing of innocent children in the womb. There is no nice in this. It must be pointed out.

Let us keep in mind that while the public vigil is suspended, we still have the power of prayer. We must remember, prayer is powerful and always necessary.

While we may not be able to go to the sidewalk during this time of pandemic, we can spend the time we would have volunteered in support of life to write our representatives and ask them to support life. Remember, in writing, do not threaten; rather, be respectful, clear, concise, and brief as you encourage the support of life. Let them know that the priority must be life.

We do have a bit of good news to share. We received word from the Colorado Springs 40 Days for Life team, that during this time of trial, they were able to find a home for a pregnant woman

who needed help. We here at Armor of Faith Radio would like to join in a big “thank you” to all those who stepped up to help this woman, especially the family who is providing for this woman a home and transportation to employment and medical appointments. The best comes from us when we share the blessings of love.

If you would like to learn more about how you can help the fight for life, check your local 40 Days for Life web site. The national web site, <https://www.40daysforlife.com/>, can help you find an organization near you.

WCAT Radio Fund Raiser: WCAT Radio, the organization through which this and a variety of kindred Catholic radio shows are presented, is conducting a funding drive to help address the costs of operation and production. WCAT Radio presents two dozen hours of new, quality, Catholic programming each week and offers over 5,000 hours of archived programming in history, theology, spirituality, and poetry for the purpose of promoting the Catholic spiritual journey — a virtual audio library of our Catholic faith. Please consider giving a tax deductible donation to WCAT Radio to enable them to continue to broadcast the Catholic message. You can donate online at <https://wcatradio.com/support>. Any amount you can contribute, will help the mission to evangelize the Gospel.

Why Catholics Do What We Do:

Lent – Part VIII:

Ready for Lent to come to an end? Almost there! This Sunday is Palm Sunday. Under normal circumstances, we would all be heading for the celebration with palms. I do not know what to expect this year, but please make this a week to remember and do some reading about this holy time.

We must move on! Today let us look at Holy Week. Holy Week actually begins with Palm Sunday and continues through Easter Sunday. Holy Week is jam packed with worship, devotion, sadness and celebration.

It all begins with Holy Thursday. This was indeed a busy night. On this holy night, we remember the events of the Last Supper. What happened? Jesus and His Apostles gathered for the meal of meals. Before eating, Jesus washed the feet of the men he chose to be His Priests. And this act established the Priesthood that would continue until this very day. Since that night, there has been a long line of succession of good and holy men who signed on to be the hands, feet, voice and heart of Christ Himself. In the history of the Catholic Church, every priest can trace his line of succession to his Bishop, who traces his line of succession to the Pope, who traces his line of succession all the way back to Jesus. Pretty cool.

After the washing of the feet, this gathering enjoyed a feast called the Last Supper. During the meal, they enjoyed conversation just like any other meal they had shared together. They were no doubt happy to be together. The Apostles did not fully understand, yet, of the events to come. Jesus and His Apostle Judas were the only two who were aware that the end was coming quickly.

Jesus established yet another important act on this night. He raised bread, blessed it and told his followers that this was His body. Then he raised the chalice, blessed the contents and told the

men that this was His blood. This act established what we know today as the Eucharist. He told the Apostles to do this in His memory. Every time we go to Mass and receive Communion, we are remembering this very night. Jesus gave the Apostles the authority to consecrate bread and wine so that the Holy Spirit will make the transubstantiation and change the substances into the real Body and Blood of Jesus.

After the establishments of the Priesthood and the Eucharist, Jesus turned to Judas and reminded him of the task at hand. Judas rushed out of the building. Jesus and the others then went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was fully aware of what was about to begin. He asked the men to pray with Him. As we all remember, the Apostles were overcome with sleepiness and fell asleep. Jesus prayed by Himself.

After prayer time in which Jesus even asked His Father to take away what was coming. He followed the request with the statement that of course only that the Father's Will be done. As He finished the prayers, guards came with Judas who betrayed Jesus. Judas sealed the fate of Jesus by kissing Him on the cheek. Knowing now which one of the men in the garden was Jesus, the guards arrested Him. Before they could take Him away, one of the Apostles got angry and cut off the ear of one of the guards. Jesus stopped the fight, picked up the ear and put it back on the guard. The guard was healed. Did anyone recognize the miracle? Apparently not for they bound Jesus and dragged Him off.

During the night, Jesus was dragged back and forth between leaders as they wanted to pass the buck on who would have to deal with Him. He was flogged, beaten, spit upon, had a crown of thorns pushed onto His head, chastised, and abandoned. Then the decision was made to crucify Him.

The next three days are what we call the Triduum. Triduum means three days of events. These events lead to Easter.

On Good Friday Jesus was given His cross to carry on his journey to Calvary. He was broken, His body was torn up by all the beatings He had endured and yet He carried the cross. After arriving at the site, the guards nailed His hands and feet to the wood, raised the cross so that all would see. After three long hours of suffering, Jesus died. After His death, He was wrapped in burial cloths and placed in a tomb.

Catholics gather in the evening of this day to venerate the cross. We do this by kissing the cross and paying homage to our Lord. There is a Mass, however Liturgy of the Eucharist does not happen. The people are allowed to receive Communion that was consecrated on Holy Thursday. On Friday, the tabernacle is emptied. This is the only night of the year in which the tabernacle is empty. Jesus is not present in the church.

Holy Saturday is a day of calm. The horror of killing the King of kings has happened and now we prepare for the Easter Sunday celebration of His rising, returning to give assurance to His Apostles and followers and His ascent into Heaven. After sundown on Holy Saturday, the longest and holiest Mass of the year begins.

My time is up, so we will discuss Holy Saturday Mass and Easter Sunday next time.

Have a blessed week All. Remember, you are loved dearly by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and yes, by us as well.

If you would like to learn more about Holy Week, we invite you to follow the links in the reference section of the topic summary for this show. You can obtain the topic summary by visiting <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides/> and look for episode 140.

Discussion:

Last time, as we concluded our series concerning the Rosary, I expressed that we pray our discussion opened doors to discovery as to what the scripture behind the Rosary reveals. As we mentioned, at several points during the series, there is so much to discover and so much to which the prayers and mysteries draw our attention. It is the ultimate treasure map of faith, but it is also the ultimate armor and weapon as the battle with the evil one rages.

Remember what our Lady said to Saint Dominic:

I want you to know that, in this kind of warfare, the principal weapon has always been the Angelic Psalter, which is the foundation-stone of the New Testament. Therefore, if you want to reach these hardened souls and win them over to God, preach my Psalter.
(Monfort, 15)

As we concluded the series, I pointed out that our nation is engaged in social distancing and the doors to our parishes are closed. Even with the efforts of dedicated priests who conduct daily Mass and broadcast it online, we can only watch the Mass at a distance. Some do not even have a means by which they may watch. We are not allowed to receive the Eucharist. We are being distanced from the sacraments. Still, especially if we have the prayers memorized, the Rosary cannot be taken from us. It is a gift to us from the Holy Spirit who inspired it. Our Lord and Savior and His Mother encourage us to pray it so that as we pray, we may approach the Sacred Heart of the only begotten Son of God.

During this time of social distancing, we may be restricted in our ability to pray in fellowship, but we can still join together using video devices or phones. More importantly, we can join with our families and lift up our hearts in prayer.

Something else we should consider, our Lady told Sister Lucia of Fatima that the final battle with Satan will be over marriage and family. Sister Lucia wrote to Cardinal Caffarra, "The final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan will be about Marriage and the Family." In her letter, she added, "Don't be afraid, because whoever works for the sanctity of Marriage and the Family will always be fought against and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue." Then she concluded, "nevertheless, Our Lady has already crushed his head." (Catholic News Agency)

During this time of social distancing, while we are being kept from the Eucharist, wouldn't it be wonderful if a multitude of families joined the battle, using the ultimate weapon of which both our Lord and our Lady called St. Dominic to preach? (Montfort, 15, 20) Wouldn't it be such a blessing if families all over the world lifted their hearts to God through the Rosary so that the suffering of the world might be lifted from us and the doors to our parishes might be reopened

so we may once more receive the precious body and blood of our Lord and Savior as He instructed us at the last supper?

We pray all our listeners will draw closer to the Rosary so that the Rosary may draw all of us closer to Christ. Pray, encourage one another, and pray so that as we pray, we may imitate what the Rosary contains and obtain what it promises through the same Christ our Lord.

Today, we will turn our attention to our Lord's Divine Mercy. From the moment the serpent conversed with Eve in the garden, the battle of evil within the hearts of the children of our Heavenly Father's creation has progressed through the generations. During our series on the Miracles of Faith (episodes 47 - 56), we pointed out that according to various accounts, on 13 October 1884, Pope Leo XIII had a vision which caused him grave concern. The vision is said to have been a conversation between Jesus and Satan. The subject of the conversation was a boast by Satan that he could destroy the Church which Jesus had established. Satan said he would need 100 years. It has been said that in response to this vision, Pope Leo XIII composed the Saint Michael prayer.

Thirty-three years later, we experienced the miracle of the Sun at Fatima where Our Lady warned us that if her request to have Russia consecrated to her Immaculate Heart and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays goes unheeded, then, Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, promoting wars and persecutions of the Church. Our Lady warned, *“the good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated; in the end, My Immaculate Heart shall triumph.”* (Marchi, 28)

While there were efforts by some to accomplish the requests of Our Lady, we know that she was ignored by much of the world. As we examine the history after the Miracle of the Sun, we should note that in Russia, other events were in play, which history remembers as the October Revolution. On 25 October 1917, the Bolshevicks seized power, which opened the door to communism and what became known as the Soviet Union.

During our series, “By Their Fruits You Shall Know Them,” episodes 57 – 68, we chronicled various means by which Russia spread her errors to the world to include the art of disinformation which has now infected our entertainment, news, educational, and social media. We also discussed how this art of disinformation was not only designed to disrupt the politics of the West, but specifically targeted the Catholic Church with the objective of disrupting, discrediting, and destroying, from within, the church Christ built on Peter.

We should also note another prophecy of Our Lady, as she told Sister Lucia that while Sister Lucia would remain for a time, Francisco and Jacinta would be taken to heaven soon. In 1918, the Marto family was exposed to influenza during what was known as the Spanish flu epidemic. The illness infected everyone in the Marto family except Ti Marto, who did his best to care for his ill family. Francisco was to suffer several months until he passed away on 4 April 1919. Almost a year later, after two hospital visits and extensive efforts by doctors, Jacinta passed away, on 20 February 1920. Lucia lived to the age of 97. She passed away on 13 February 2005.

As history began to validate the prophecies of Our Lady reported to us from Fatima, other events were also in motion; events which would intertwine with the Fatima prophecies. On 25 Aug 1905, Maria Faustyna Kowalska was born. According to her diary, from the age of 7, she felt a call of God to the grace and vocation of religious life. (Faustina Diary, 1:7)

At the age of 18, she asked her parents permission to enter a convent, but they refused. She related that after that, she turned to the world, but the grace of God won out. (Faustina Diary, 1:8) While her diary does not reveal an exact date, given what she revealed about the event, it was likely in 1924, that she was at a dance when Jesus appeared to her. She relates:

While everybody was having a good time, my soul was experiencing deep torments. As I began to dance, I suddenly saw Jesus at my side, Jesus racked with pain, stripped of His clothing, all covered with wounds, who spoke these words to me: *How long shall I put up with you and how long will you keep putting Me off?* At that moment the charming music stopped, [and] the company I was with vanished from my sight; there remained Jesus and I. I took a seat by my dear sister pretending to have a headache in order to cover up what took place in my soul. After a while I slipped out unnoticed, leaving my sister and all my companions behind and made my way to the Cathedral of Saint Stanislaus Kostka.

(Question 1: Ok, after listening to our series on Miracles and Faith, I'm sure everyone knows my next question. Let's put ourselves in the shoes of Maria Kowalska. So, there we are, at a dance and feeling deep torments in our soul, and suddenly, we see Jesus standing at our side. What might come to our mind in such a moment and what might we do?)

The story continues:

It was almost twilight; there were only a few people in the cathedral. Paying no attention to what was happening around me, I fell prostrate before the Blessed Sacrament and begged the Lord to be good enough to give me to understand what I should do next.

Then I heard these words: *Go at once to Warsaw; you will enter a convent there.* I rose from prayer, came home, and took care of things that needed to be settled. As best I could, I confided to my sister what took place within my soul. I told her to say good-bye to our parents, and thus, in my one dress, with no other belonging, I arrived in Warsaw. (Faustina Diary, 1:9-10)

(Question 2: Jesus told Maria to “*Go at once to Warsaw; you will enter a convent there.*” If we heard such words in our heart, would we be willing to drop everything and simply go and do, especially if we had no clue as to what was to come?)

Of course, Maria did as Jesus told her, but the road was not easy for her. It took several attempts before she was accepted in a convent in Warsaw. Seven years later, on 22 Feb 1931, Maria had a vision. She relates:

In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand [was] raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale. In silence I kept my gaze fixed on the Lord; my soul was struck with awe, but also with great joy. After a while, Jesus said to me, *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.* (Faustina Diary, 1:47)

Jesus continues:

I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory. (Faustina Diary, 1:48)

(Question 3: Again, let's put ourselves in Maria's shoes. So, there we are; given a simple task by Jesus; paint an image of what we just saw. Well, that's simple, isn't it, except, we are not an artist – oh, and the part about veneration throughout the world – just a minor part of the task. What would we do if we felt Jesus was asking for us to do something when we had no skill or talent to accomplish the task or the task seems well beyond our influence?)

After reflecting, Maria goes to her confessor and relates the vision. She relates:

When I told this to my confessor, I received this for a reply: “That refers to your soul.” He told me, “Certainly, paint God’s image in your soul.” When I came out of the confessional, I again heard words such as these: *My image already is in your soul. I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy. I want this image, which you will paint with a brush, to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy.*

(Question 4: So, I should point out, we have lots of images of Christ which surround us. We can gaze upon them in our parishes, in our Bibles, in our Missals, just to name a few places we might find them. Hopefully, they also adorn our home to remind us of our Lord and Savior. What might we think is special about this image our Lord wants Maria to paint?)

Maria asked the Lord as to the meaning of the rays coming from His heart, the answer she documents in her diary is:

The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls... These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross.

These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him. I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy. (Faustina Diary, 1:299)

(Question 5: As we reflect on the words of Jesus in the entries of Saint Faustina's Diary, it is clear His intent is that all may see and venerate this image because of what He wants us understand. What is the purpose we might discern for the reason our Lord desires we should see and venerate this image?)

- Hand help up in blessing (a blessing is an invocation of God's power and care)

- The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous
- The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls
- These rays shield souls

I would like us to consider the following scripture:

(Numbers 21:4-9)

4 From Mount Hor they set out by way of the Red Sea, to bypass the land of Edom, but the people's patience was worn out by the journey; 5 so **the people complained against God and Moses**, "Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in the wilderness, where there is no food or water? We are disgusted with this wretched food!"

6 So the LORD sent among the people seraph serpents, which bit the people so that many of the Israelites died. 7 Then the people came to Moses and said, "**We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray to the LORD to take the serpents from us.**" So **Moses prayed for the people**, 8 and the LORD said to Moses: **Make a seraph and mount it on a pole, and everyone who has been bitten will look at it and recover.** 9 Accordingly Moses made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and **whenever the serpent bit someone, the person looked at the bronze serpent and recovered.**

(John 8:21-30)

14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, **so must the Son of Man be lifted up**, 15 so that **everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.**"

Quotes:

– Saint John Paul II - Shrine of Divine Mercy in Cracow, Poland on 7 Jun 1997

Those who sincerely say 'Jesus, I trust in You' will find comfort in all their anxieties and fears. There is nothing more man needs than Divine Mercy – that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights to the holiness of God.

– Saint John Paul II

...with the burning desire that the message of God's merciful love proclaimed by St. Faustina may be made known to all the peoples of the earth and fill their hearts with hope. May this message radiate from this place to our beloved homeland and throughout the world... In the mercy of God the world will find peace and mankind will find happiness.

– Pope Benedict XVI

How many people also in our time are in search of God, in search of Jesus and of his Church, in search of divine mercy, and are waiting for a "sign" that will touch their minds and their hearts! Today, as then, the Evangelist reminds us that the only "sign" is Jesus raised on the cross: Jesus who died and rose is the absolutely sufficient sign. Through him we can understand the truth about life and obtain salvation.

Final Thoughts:

As we opened this discussion, I mentioned a flow of events from the time of Eve until our very day. As we examine history, we certainly see the influence of the evil one, but we should also look for the fingerprints of God. The Bible is full of stories of the faithful and the remnant few who navigated evil and its persecutions. Notice how many times God has worked through the meek and the lowly. We do not have to be a theologian to hear His voice, we simply need to have a heart which is open to Him.

I asked the questions about what we would do if we were in the shoes of Maria because a day might come where it is our heart to which He reaches. We know He seeks to enter every heart, but do we listen? We might be tempted to believe that conversations with God ended in Biblical times, that no more would He converse with any of the children of His creation, that no more would He encourage the world to come to Him, so why should we listen for Him? He has left everything for us within the Bible.

It is true that scripture has spoken and that as the world received the Word Made Flesh, that we received the full revelation of God. He does not send us any new revelation, rather, He works to help us understand His call to love as well as forgiveness so we, too, might be forgiven. It is really by these measures we may consider the miracles and apparitions of our day. It is by these measures by which we may test the spirits as we are told in 1John 4:1, which reads: *“Beloved, do not trust every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they belong to God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”*

While the evil one roams the world for the ruin of souls, Jesus is not sitting idly by. He wants us to know the mercy He offers so we may be delivered from evil. Next time, as we pick up our discussion, we will examine the message of Jesus sent to the world through Saint Faustina. We will discuss in more detail the meaning of the image to which Jesus calls us to venerate so that as we venerate it, we might reflect on its meaning, not only for how we lead our life in this world, but what it also means for our place in eternity when we are so bitten by sin.

Wrap Up: Well, our time has come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next week as we turn our discussion to the message of Divine Mercy.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to share the blessings of our trust and faith in You. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation**, and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless.

Next Session: Divine Mercy – Part II: The Message

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