



The Armor of Faith
Topic Summary: Divine Mercy
Part II: The Message



Jezu Ufam Tobie – Jesus I Trust in You
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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 with 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 that is what the panel expects me to do and we certainly wouldn't want to disappoint them – besides, it gives me a spot on the show. 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 and their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

We continue our prayers for all the suffering, as well as all those working to contain, mitigate, and end the pandemic. We pray dear Lord, You will guide all of us through this time of trial.

We also pray for all those who are battling cancer, especially Frank, Carol, Barb, Sarah, Geska, Nadia, Lucy, and the children Abby, Anna, Amber, and Ben. We pray Your healing hand shall rest upon them, as well as Your hand of comfort; that You will guide the hearts and hands of their care givers, and that Your hand of comfort shall also rest on all 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 wcatradio.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, wcatradio.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 ended 5 Apr 2020, but the struggle for life is obviously not over. We want to remind you that there are so many ways to defend life, even during this time of lock down.

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 IX:

We continue on through Holy Week. We have arrived at Holy Saturday. For people who are servant leaders and ministers, this has already been a busy week. But the next two days are the most exciting and eventful. These two days require a ton of preparation.

Saturday is the Vigil of Easter. On this night, the congregants are looking forward to the resurrection of our Lord, the people who have been studying about Catholicism will become Catholic, and children will sleep through most of the evening as this is the longest Mass of our entire year. Since the documents of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops says it so well, let us read from their writings.

The rubrics of the *Missale Romanum* remind us that this "mother of all vigils" is the "greatest and most noble of all solemnities and it is to be unique in every single Church". On this holy night, the Church keeps watch, celebrating the resurrection of Christ in the sacraments and awaiting his return in glory. It is the turning point of the Triduum, the Passover of the new covenant, which marks Christ's passage from death to life. Therefore, the Easter Vigil does not correspond to the usual Saturday evening Mass and its character is unique in the cycle of the liturgical year.

The Vigil, by its very nature, "ought to take place at night". It is not begun before nightfall and should end before daybreak on Easter Sunday. The celebration of the Easter Vigil takes the place of the Office of Readings.

The evening begins at dusk. The people gather outside of the church. There is still some light out so that people can see as the lighting of the fire is set a blaze. This fire is to show us the Light of the world is about to bring forth light into the world.

Then the Pascal Candle will be adorned and lit. The Pascal Candle is very special. It is made of wax and renewed each year. Since this candle will be used for all of the Easter season and for each Sacramental setting during the coming year, this candle is normally very large. The Roman Missal states that the candle is a symbol of the, "light of Christ, rising in glory," scattering the "darkness of our hearts and minds."

Then the candle is prepared for use in Mass and rites. The USCCB tells us,

“The candle is then prepared in rites which are no longer optional. The celebrant cuts a cross into the candle with a stylus. Then he makes the Greek letter Alpha above the cross, the letter Omega below it, and the four numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross, saying the words indicated. After these rites, the priest lights the candle from the new fire and says: *May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.*’ (USCCB)

Following the blessing of the Pascal Candle, a procession into the church begins. The person carrying the candle stops at the entrance of the door and all who pass, light their own smaller

candles from it as they continue on to their seats. Slowly, the many candles light up the church as electric lights are all turned off at this point.

The priest and his ministers make their way to the sanctuary and the Liturgy of the Word begins. On this night, there are 7 readings from the Old Testament and 2 from the New Testament. This is the longest part of the night, but it tells us about the history of mankind and why we are here to celebrate.

By the time the readings are finished, the lights are now turned on, and it is time for the receiving of the Sacraments. Those who have been studying for a year now, are very nervous and excited. They gather at the back of the church to be received and welcomed. First are the Baptisms. Each person who is to be Baptized is joyfully covered with the waters of salvation. Of course they then need to leave the church to change clothing. When they return, Confirmation is given to them. At this point, the church is smelling oh so heavenly with the scent of Chrism Oil of which each new Catholic has now been blessed with twice.

Following the Confirmation, the Mass continues as we are accustomed. The Liturgy of the Eucharist is held. After the consecration, those who are new Catholics are invited to come forward to receive Communion for the first time. The rest of the congregation follows behind the Neophytes. A Neophyte is a person who is new to Catholicism.

The Mass concludes in similar fashion to regular Sunday Masses. This is a time to celebrate and rejoice. Often there will be a reception and people will hang around for some time to welcome the Neophytes.

On Sunday morning, the Easter celebrations are joyous and grand. This Mass is to celebrate the end of Lent, the end of Holy Week and the recognition that Jesus Christ is resurrected and alive in heaven. On this day, Catholics around the world will rejoice for the living Christ who is our Redeemer and Savior.

This year, 2020, Catholics will not be attending Mass as we are experiencing the pandemic of Corona Virus and practicing “social distancing”. This is a first. Our prayers this year will be for all to spend time with Christ, in prayer, and to find peace in our selves so that when this pandemic is over, we can get back to worshipping the King of kings and preparing ourselves for eternal life with Him.

Happy Easter Everyone!!

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 Saturday and the Easter Vigil, 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 141.

Discussion:

As we opened our discussion last time, I mentioned a flow of events from the time of Eve until our modern day. As we examine history, we certainly see the influence of the evil one, but we also see the fingerprints of God in all which is righteous. The Bible is full of stories of the faithful and the remnant few who navigated evil, its trials, and its persecutions. We should also take notice of how many times God has worked through the meek and the lowly to accomplish His will. We do not have to be a theologian to hear His voice, we simply need to have a heart which is open to Him; nor should we expect to hear Him with the ears of our head when it is to our heart which He speaks.

I asked the questions about what we would do if we were in the shoes of Saint Faustina because a day might come where it is our heart to which Jesus 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? Some tell us there is no need to listen for Him, for 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 1 John 4:1, which reads:

(1 John 4:1)

*“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, we should not expect Jesus to just sit idly by. He wants us to know the mercy He offers so we may be delivered from evil.

Today, we shall turn our discussion to examine the message of Jesus sent to the world through Saint Faustina. When we look at the biography of Saint Faustina, we should observe that Jesus steered Maria to the religious life, but then, He came to her one day with a task. After appearing to her in a white garment, one hand raised in blessing and the other pointing to His breast where two rays emanated, one red and the other pale, He told her:

***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 continued:

***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)*

Of course, Maria is a bit overwhelmed by the task and goes to her confessor to relate what she saw, but the confessor turns her inward rather than outward. He tells Maria, “**Certainly, paint God’s image in your soul,**” to which Jesus says to her:

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. (Faustina Diary, 1:49)

(Question 1: We might note that while Maria and her confessor discuss the image and the instruction to paint it, Jesus has a different focus. **What might we observe in these few words from Jesus to the heart of Saint Faustina?)**

- Jesus wants an image painted (a picture is worth how many words?)
- The image must have the signature: Jesus, I trust in you
- Jesus wants the image venerated
- Jesus wants a Feast of Mercy
- Jesus promises that the soul which venerates the image, shall not perish
- Jesus promises victory over the enemies of the image
- Jesus will defend the venerating soul, especially at the hour of death
- Jesus wants the Feast of Mercy the Sunday after Easter (what does Easter have to do with it – anything special we might remember about that day?)
- Two words of importance - “trust” and “mercy”

(Question 2: So, as we discussed, two words should jump out at us from these words of Jesus to Saint Faustina: trust and mercy. **What is the importance of these words as they come to us from Jesus?)**

- Do we trust Jesus is the only begotten Son of God?
- Do we trust in the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins?
- Do we trust in the glory of Jesus?
- Do we trust in the power of Jesus?
- Do we trust in the love of Jesus?
- Do we trust in the forgiveness of Jesus?
- Do we trust in the mercy of Jesus?

If you remember from our last episode, I mentioned a progression of history from the time of Pope Leo XIII and the vision which prompted him to compose the Saint Michael prayer. I also mentioned that thirty-three years later, crowds would experience the miracle of the sun at Fatima. During the first apparition of Our Lady to the children of Fatima, she said:

Recite the rosary every day to obtain the peace for the world and the end of the war.
(HolyRosary.org)

During another apparition of Our Lady to the children of Fatima, she said:

When you recite the Rosary, say at the end of each decade: Oh My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your Mercy. (HolyRosary.org)

(Question 3: When I learned the Rosary, I included this prayer, but I did not know from where it came. I later learned it to be the Fatima prayer. What is Our Lady instructing us to pray?)

- Oh my Jesus (asking Jesus)
 - Forgive us our sins (for forgiveness)
 - Save us from the fires of hell (so we may be saved)
 - Lead all souls to heaven (so we may come to His kingdom)
 - Especially those in most need of thy mercy (we need His mercy)
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Earlier, we mentioned 1 John 4:1)

(1 John 4:1)

“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.”

So, let's turn to scripture a moment. The first time Jesus talks to us about mercy is within what we know as the beatitudes. In Matthew 5:7, Jesus says:

(Matthew 5:7)

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Later, we see this exchange in Matthew 9:

(Matthew 9:10-13)

10 While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. 11 The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 12 He heard this and said, “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. 13 Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

Further on in Matthew 12 we observe:

(Matthew 12:1-8)

1 At that time Jesus was going through a field of grain on the sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. 2 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the sabbath.” 3 He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, 4 how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of

offering, which *neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat?* 5 Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests serving in the temple violate the sabbath and are innocent? 6 *I say to you, something greater than the temple is here.* 7 *If you knew what this meant, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned these innocent men.* 8 *For the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath.*”

In the Old Testament, we find these words:

(Deuteronomy 7:9)

9 *Know, then, that the LORD, your God, is God: the faithful God who keeps covenant mercy to the thousandth generation toward those who love him and keep his commandments.*

(Question 4: So, we might observe this flow of Mercy from the Old Testament through the New as well as the conversations which extend to our modern day. What is the common desire of God? What is the gap in our relationship with God? How does God resolve this gap in our relationship?)

- The covenant of God with the faithful is His mercy
- His mercy is offered to all who love Him
- His mercy is offered to all who keep His commandments
- When we sin, we separate ourselves from Him

(John 14:15)

15 *If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

(John 14:21)

21 *Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.*

We fail in our sin, but God fixed this:

(John 3:16-21)

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.” 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. 21 But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.*

Saint Faustina relates to us these words of Jesus:

I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. (Faustina Diary, 2:699)

My daughter. Speak to the world about My mercy; let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy. It is a sign for the end times; after it will come the day of justice. While there is still time, let them have recourse to the fount of My mercy; let them profit from the Blood and Water which gushed forth for them. (Faustina Diary, 2:848)

Daughter, when you go to confession, to this fountain of My mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul and ennobles it. Every time you go to confession, immerse yourself entirely in My mercy, with great trust, so that I may pour the bounty of My grace upon your soul. When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy. Tell souls that from this fount of mercy souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust. (Faustina Diary, 3:1602)

Remember from our last episode, Jesus told us the rays from His heart represents the blood and water which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus when it was opened by a lance while He was on the Cross.

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: We might notice by now that Jesus is calling us to His mercy. From these words related by Saint Faustina, to what important sacraments does Jesus point as the path to His mercy? Why are these sacraments important?)

- Sacrament of reconciliation (confession of our sins with a contrite heart)
- Holy Communion (receiving the Holy Eucharist)

(Luke 22:19-20)

19 Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, *“This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.”*
20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, *“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.”*

Quotes:

(Faustina Diary, 1:300)

Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy.

(Faustina Diary, 3:1146)

He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice...

(Faustina Diary, 2:965)

Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity.

(Faustina Diary, 1:367)

My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners. If only they could understand that I am the best of Fathers to them and that it is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy.

(Faustina Diary, 3:1146)

[Let] the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls. Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy.

Final Thoughts:

I don't know if I have ever mentioned this before, but when Jesus was asked which was the greatest commandment, He replied that it was to love God with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our souls. And without prompting, He said the second was like the first, to love one another as we would love ourselves. He told us that all the law and the prophets depend on these two. (Matthew 22:36-40) It is all rather simple, and yet, even with all the explanation of scripture, we struggle so in our understanding.

As we reflect on the words Jesus spoke to Saint Faustina, we might observe a similar simplicity in two things: trust and mercy. The image Jesus wanted Saint Faustina to paint, with a brush, is His image, so we might see His eyes upon on us, with the rays of the blood of life and the water of righteousness, coming from His heart as a font of mercy for us. The signature He wants on the image, so we shall all remember, is “Jesus, I trust in you.” He does not ask the question, He gives us the answer. If we are to receive His mercy, we must trust in Him and His love, which

He proved on the cross are one in the same. It is our trust in God which provides the strength of our faith, so we might ask ourselves:

- Do we trust Jesus is the only begotten Son of God?
- Do we trust in the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins?
- Do we trust in the glory of Jesus?
- Do we trust in the power of Jesus?
- Do we trust in the love of Jesus?
- Do we trust in the forgiveness of Jesus?
- Do we trust in the mercy of Jesus?

And then, we might ask of ourselves:

- Can we look Jesus in the eye with our sins?
- Can we look Jesus in the eye with our trust?
- Can we look Jesus in the eye and accept His forgiveness?
- Can we look Jesus in the eye and accept His mercy?

If we are like the tax collector, who dared not raise his eyes to heaven (cf. Luke 18:9-14), but trust in Jesus, and approach Him with a contrite heart, we shall receive His embrace and the love He pours out for us.

If we trust in Him, we will discover the love He has for even the greatest of sinners. He, is truly our life, our sweetness, and our hope.

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 spiritual warfare of which our Lord warns.

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 III: Spiritual Warfare

Why Catholics Do What We Do References:

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