



***The Armor of Faith***  
**Topic Summary: Divine Mercy**  
***Part IV: Divine Mercy Devotion***



*Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy  
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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, somewhere, someplace, there is an answer just waiting for a question. 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.

We are also joined today by special guest panelist Pete Opetaiia

Pete is a member of the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM) at Holy Apostles Catholic Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. EADM is a cenacle formation group which focuses on scriptures, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Saint Faustina’s Diary. The group serves the community through prayers and corporal works of Divine Mercy, bringing all souls closer to Christ with Gods Mercy.

Pete, we are very happy to have you with us today.

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 pray You will enable those who are working so hard to care for the suffering.

We pray You will enable hearts of love to help the less fortunate.

We pray for the blessings of peace.

We pray for the protection of the unborn.

We pray for the protection of the innocence of our children.

We pray for the protection of our good Shepherds, as well as for an increase in their number.

We pray too, dear Lord, that You will open our parish doors, so we may once more come to adore You and receive You as You instructed us at the paschal supper.

Dear Lord, we also pray for the souls which shall pass today.

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](mailto: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](http://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 your assistance in evangelization. By sharing the URL for our show, you can help us spread knowledge of our faith. All you need to do is share the URL, [wcatradio.com/armoroffaith](http://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. You can also help us by selecting the follow or subscribe option associated with the service through which you listen to our show.

## **Faith Event Announcements:**

As we experience this time of pandemic and social distancing, various political forces are taking the opportunity to “re-imagine” and change our culture to their vision. As people come out of crisis, our natural tendency is to look to what we can do to protect ourselves from similar future events. Others, look at the opportunity to play to the fears of the people so they may manipulate agendas. Such times of uncertainty and disruption can be very dangerous to our freedoms as people consider trading off their liberty for perceptions of security.

We must be very careful during such times of transition, for while it is an opportunity to address failings and collectively work to prevent or mitigate the impacts of future crisis, solutions must not be allowed to come at the expense of our God given rights. Now, as we always should, we must consider what God asks of us. We must also prepare ourselves to influence the solutions, else, we simply allow political forces to overwhelm us, for example, the effort in Congress to use the pandemic economic relief effort to open the doors of federal funding for abortion. Fortunately, that was turned back, but, we can expect similar efforts going forward.

While we must be wary of political forces and their efforts to manipulate us, we must also consider our personal response and what we intend to change in our own lives. We must first consider matters of faith, but we must also consider how we intend to put our faith into action. While our most visible concern of the moment are those suffering and struggling from the illness, we must not forget the wave of need which is currently swelling as a result of the economic disruption where jobs are lost and families may be left without means of support.

We invite our listeners to discern in prayer, what is God asking of us as we face this opportunity to share works of love. Yes, we all are looking at putting our lives back together, but let us also ask God what He desires we do for one another in the process. We must remember, God can work through anything and anyone. The question is, will we allow Him to work through us?

## **Why Catholics Do What We Do:**

### ***Spring – Part I:***

Happy Easter and Spring time. We are still in the Easter season but it is also spring time and you know what that means. Spring cleaning. When we do the cleaning, we do it all---dust, get rid of cob webs, clean windows, wash curtains, steam carpets, rearrange cupboards, clean out closets, and in my case, rearrange furniture. My husband hates it, but I seem to need a change of pace. And yes, as we clean, we toss out stuff that has gotten broken or is no longer being used. We make room for healthy breathing and living. Sound about like what you do at your home? It is a lot of work, but we are sure happy when it is done.

Speaking of tossing things out... We don't often get rid of things that are of a religious nature, but there are times when this is necessary. What do we do with items that are blessed?

First off, let us mention a few items that are in this category of “religious goods”. Things we collect and use at home would be votive candles, rosaries, palm branches, medals, pictures, statues, crosses, holy cards and books. We lovingly purchase these things and have our priest

bless them, as a means of helping us to grow in our faith, to have reminders of our history, and to have something physical to remind us to pray and to hold the course when times get tough.

Of course we all need help with our faith in order to learn it better and understand all that has happened since the beginning of time until our present days. We have items in our home that once belonged to parents and grandparents. This means we have lots of old stuff. At some moment in time, these items will break, or wear out. What do we do with them then?

The Diocese of Superior Wisconsin states:

Once a religious object is blessed and dedicated for divine worship or veneration, it must be treated with reverence and must not be used in either an improper or profane way (cf. Code of Canon Law, #1171).

What happens when the rosary or statue breaks and is irreparable? Or, when the palm dries out, and the following Palm Sunday provides us with new palm? The basic rule for the disposition of these items is to burn or to bury them.

Therefore, the normal "rule of thumb" is that anything that has been blessed should be burned (and then the ashes buried) or simply buried. (Diocese of Superior)

This custom we have of burning and burying goes way back in time. This is followed not only by us as lay people, but by the Church as well. When something in the Church becomes no longer usable, it is carefully disposed of by disassembling, burning and burying.

Just as a side story, I would like to share with you a place where miracles have happened because of a buried Crucifix.

There is a place in the United States that is a site of a historical buried Crucifix, Chimayo, New Mexico. If you ever get the chance to visit there, please do so. It is a most interesting location and the history is amazing. The following is from the National Parks Services.

Devotion to Our Lord of Esquipulas originated at an early colonial shrine in Guatemala, at which the earth was said to be effective in curing illnesses. Franciscan friars spread commitment to this image of Christ crucified throughout Mexico and to New Mexico. The people of El Potrero passed on a series of legends concerning the apparition of Our Lord of Esquipulas from generation to generation in the Chimayo area. According to the most popular tradition, on the Holy Week night of Good Friday in 1810, Don Bernardo Abeyta, a member of the Penitentes, saw a light beaming out of one of the hills near the Santa Cruz River in Chimayo. He went to the spot and saw that the light was coming out of the ground. Digging with his bare hands, he found a Crucifix, which he immediately associated with Our Lord of Esquipulas. He left it there and a group of men went to notify the priest, Fray Sebastián Alvarez. (National Park Service)

Seems the priest took the Crucifix to the church. However the next day it was gone and found again at the site where it was found. This happened several more times until the priest decided to request to build a chapel on the site. Today there is a church with a side chapel for this site

and people have attested to healings that have occurred on that site. The site of the buried Crucifix. When we visited, we were delighted to see the site and to be allowed to scoop some of the holy dirt into small zip lock bags to take home. Now, after all these years, of people visiting and taking dirt from the site, there is still only a small hole and there seems to be plenty of dirt for others to also collect.

So as you are contemplating the removal of any religious item in your home, please do it with great respect and dignity. After all, the item was put into service for our Lord.

*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 disposing of religious items or the small shrine at Chimayo, 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 143.

## **Discussion:**

Of course, we barely scratched the surface of the subject of spiritual warfare today. Even if we kept our discussion strictly within the context of what Saint Faustina experienced and the instruction Jesus gave her, it truly demands its own series, and I will get it on our schedule.

In the examples we discussed, we see the difference between going it alone and turning our heart to Christ. Eve didn't fare so well in the garden, and neither do we when we fail to seek the help of our Lord and Savior. Of course, He also expects us to do our part, and just as He offers Mercy, He expects us to give mercy to one another as well. (cf. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Matthew 18:21-35)

As a military man, I will tell you that when one prepares for battle, soldiers want the right equipment for the environment and terrain over which the battle will be fought. Equally important to having said equipment is knowing how to use it. In spiritual warfare, this is what our faith teaches us. There is also another concept and that is situational awareness. We must know our adversaries, we must know our allies, we must know our environment, and we must also know ourselves. All of this requires education, training, and awareness. Consider Matthew 16:1-3, where Jesus speaks to the Pharisees and Sadducees about their situational awareness.

(Matthew 16:1-3)

*1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came and, to test him, asked him to show them a sign from heaven. 2 He said to them in reply, "[In the evening you say, 'Tomorrow will be fair, for the sky is red'; 3 and, in the morning, 'Today will be stormy, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to judge the appearance of the sky, but you cannot judge the signs of the times.]*

When I was on active duty, there was a saying which was a reminder to both soldiers and leaders, “In time of battle, let no soul cry out, had I only the proper training.” If we are to engage as God asks of us, we must learn from His spiritual battle book, which some refer to as the Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth, or Bible for short.

So, what does that mean? Well, obviously, I cannot address everything in a short opening statement, so, let me summarize it this way. When we do not know our faith, we leave ourselves vulnerable to the one who would take it from us. The more we know our faith, the more difficult we make the task for the one who would deceive us. Still, to prevail, especially as we face overwhelming and not always easily seen opposition, we must trust in our Lord. So many times He has worked through the lowly and the remnant few.

So, here is the question: Are we willing to be His soldiers? Will we train and prepare for the spiritual battle already in progress for our souls? Will we follow Jesus to extinguish the darkness through the Light of His Mercy? Will we allow God to work through us?

Today, we shall turn our attention to the Divine Mercy Devotion, and to assist us in our discussion, we thought we would bring in Pete who has been living and sharing this devotion for a number of years.

**(Question 1:** We were fortunate to attend a Divine Mercy retreat that Pete helped to present last October, and we are blessed that he agreed to come onto our show to help us discuss the devotion. So, Pete, for the benefit of our listeners, could you tell us a little about how you learned about the Divine Mercy Devotion and how it has become a part of your life?)

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**(Question 2:** My personal exposure to Divine Mercy was very gradual. I saw the image, I saw the Diary, I heard the chaplet, I even joined in praying the chaplet a few times, but for the longest time, I didn't really associate these things together and was never really exposed to what some call, the devotion. Pete, from your perspective, what does the Divine Mercy Devotion encompass?)

- Reflection on what Jesus tells us through Saint Faustina (Faustina's Diary)
  - Venerate the Image and reflect on its meaning
  - Pray the Chaplet, asking for His Mercy
  - Pray during the Hour of Mercy (3pm, the hour when Jesus died on the cross)
  - Pray the Litany of Divine Mercy
  - Reflect on the mercy of Jesus
  - Receive the sacrament of reconciliation
  - Adoration of our Lord
  - Pray the Novena
  - Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday)
  - Be merciful as our Lord is merciful
  - Spread the devotion
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**(Question 3:** Some of the elements such as the Chaplet and the Novena, we will discuss in coming episodes, but I would like to turn for a moment to Saint Faustina's diary. Why might we want to spend time examining what we are told in the Diary? Pete, if you could comment first, then, I will turn to Helen and Sharon.)

- Inspiration of a relationship with Christ
- Inspiration as to the love and mercy of Jesus
- Inspiration as to how we need our Lord to help us as we face spiritual warfare
- Inspiration of perseverance in the face of obstacle
- Inspiration of trust in Jesus
- Inspiration of being merciful
- Inspiration of prayer
- Inspiration of contemplation

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**(Question 4:** We talked about the meaning of the Divine Mercy Image during our past three episodes, but I want to turn to when we have the opportunity to venerate this image. What are some means by which we may venerate the image?)

- Image in the parish
- Image in the home
- Image on our doors as a sign of faith and welcome
- Divine Mercy prayer cards → share as a means to help spread the devotion

*"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." (Diary 48)*

I went immediately to the chapel and wept a good deal. I said to the Lord, "Who will paint You as beautiful as You are?" Then I heard these words: *"Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush, lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace." (Diary 313)*

*"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." (Diary 327)*

*"By means of this Image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so let every soul have access to it" (Diary 570).*

*"By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works." (Diary 742)*

**(Question 5:** As we consider the Divine Mercy Devotion, we must consider that it is more than prayer and reflection, it is also about action. When we consider the statement of Jesus to Saint Faustina, "... *the strongest faith is of no avail without works,*" where have we heard this before and to what works might Jesus be referring?)

(James 2:14-26)

*14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? 17 So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

*18 Indeed someone may say, "You have faith and I have works." Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works. 19 You believe that God is one. You do well. Even the demons believe that and tremble. 20 Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that faith without works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by the works. 23 Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called "the friend of God." 24 See how a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by a different route? 26 For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.*

**(Note:** We must remember, we are not saved by our works, but by the grace of God. Our works demonstrate our faith, brings life to our faith, and as scripture says, our works complete our faith.)

(Ephesians 2:4-10)

*4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; 9 it is not from works, so no one may boast. 10 For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.*

(Matthew 25:31-46)

*31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, 32 and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, 36*



*naked* and you clothed me, *ill* and you cared for me, *in prison* and you visited me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ 40 And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ 41 Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ 44 Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ 45 He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ 46 And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

### **Corporal Works of Mercy**

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit those in prison
- Comfort the sick
- Bury the dead

### **Spiritual Works of Mercy**

- Admonish sinners
- Instruct the uninformed
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Be patient with those in error
- Forgive offenses
- Pray for the living and the dead

(Revelation 2:19)

19 “I know your works, your *love, faith, service, and endurance*, and that your last works are greater than the first.

(Diary 1317)

I understand Your words, Lord, and the magnitude of the mercy that ought to shine in my soul. Jesus: *I know, My daughter, that you understand it and that you do everything within your power. But write this for the many souls who are often worried because they do not have the material means with which to carry out an act of mercy. Yet spiritual mercy, which requires neither permission nor storehouses, is much more meritorious and is within the grasp of every soul. If a soul does not exercise mercy somehow or other, it will not obtain My mercy on the day of judgment. Oh, if only souls knew how to gather eternal treasure for themselves, they would not be judged, for they would forestall My judgment with their mercy.*

(Matthew 6:19-21)

19 [Jesus said,] “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

## Quotes:

– Jesus to Sister Faustina (Diary 570)

*No soul will be justified until it turns with confidence to My mercy; and this is why the first Sunday after Easter is to be the Feast of Mercy, and on that day, priests are to tell everyone about My great and unfathomable mercy.*

– Jesus to Sister Faustina (Diary 742) My daughter, if I demand through you that people revere My mercy, you should be the first to distinguish yourself by this confidence in My mercy. I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it.

*I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first- by deed, the second – by word, the third – by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays reverence to My mercy. Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy, and I demand the worship of My mercy through the solemn celebration of the Feast and through the veneration of the image which is painted. By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works.*

## Final Thoughts:

If you remember, in the opening to our discussion, I mentioned Matthew 18:21-35, the “Parable of the Unforgiving Servant”:

(Matthew 18:21-35)

21 Then Peter approaching asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. 23 That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. 25 Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. 26 At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’ 27 Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. 28 When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ 29 Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ 30 But he refused. Instead, he had him put in prison until he paid back the debt. 31 Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. 32 His master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. 33 Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?’ 34 Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he

*should pay back the whole debt. 35 So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.”*

As we consider the Divine Mercy devotion, let us remember, it is simple, like the two greatest commandments, to love God and to love one another, as we are told in Matthew 22:36-40, but as we grow in understanding, as we grow in devotion, there is much to learn about ourselves, about our choices, about our actions, about what Jesus asks of us, and about our relationship with our Lord as well as one another. Let us remember what Jesus said in Matthew 9:13:

(Matthew 9:13)

[Jesus said,] *“Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”*

He instructs us to learn about mercy, but he also tells us He calls not to the perfect, but the imperfect. He also explains in the golden rule,

(Matthew 7:12)

*Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets.*

As we follow the threads of scripture, we see the fabric of mercy which God weaves. Mercy is not simply something He grants us, but also something He expects of us. He gives us the parables, He gives us the examples, He tells us in so many ways. We may come to Him seeking His Mercy, but let us also remember, we cannot immerse ourselves in the Divine Mercy Devotion without sharing the blessing of His mercy. Let us remember that we demonstrate our understanding of what God asks of us, not only in our worship of our Lord, but also by what we do for one another.

**Wrap Up:** Well, our time has come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next week as we continue to discuss the devotion 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 V: More About the Devotion

**Why Catholics Do What We Do References:**

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