

Canadian Divine Mercy Centre and Apostolate

July 11, 2006
Feast of St. Benedict



Jesus, I Trust In You!

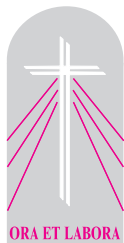
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Dear Associates, Apostles and Supporters of the Divine Mercy Centre:

I have chosen and sanctified this house”, says the Lord, “that My Name may remain in it for all time.” (2Chronicles 7:16) This quote from Holy Scripture was given to us for the Divine Mercy Oratory banner five years ago and it is with these words in mind that we continue to persevere. As you well know, the Lord has done great things in the establishment and growth of this Centre – Holy is His Name!

After more than twelve years of negotiations with the Salvatorian Fathers, we thought that everything had finally fallen into place on December 28, 2005 when we officially signed over the Centre to them. Now, with bleeding hearts, we are back at the starting line again. *(Please refer to the enclosed letter from the Salvatorian Fathers)* Let me take the liberty to rephrase Saint Paul’s words: We have started the race, we ran it and will continue to run it until we finish for the glory of God. May His Holy Name be praised at all times, but most especially when things become difficult and do not go as we had anticipated.

Over the years in God’s service, we have always tried to faithfully walk in the footsteps He had traced out for us through the original vision. With lots of patience and perseverance, we have prayed and laboured in His Vineyard of Divine Mercy. One of the beautiful fruits that has come forth is the fulfillment of God’s promise to send us an architect who would draw up the plans for the future Divine Mercy Centre. Our dear Polish friend has been drawing, sketching, praying and even dreaming about this project – a larger retreat facility to accommodate 60 overnight guests and up to 120 day pilgrims in the new meeting/conference rooms. Future plans also include separate facilities for priests, brothers and sisters.

So, dear supporters, we continue to need your prayers and financial support, for it is through you and with you that the Lord’s Divine Mercy Centre and Apostolate will blossom in our country. If you would like to become a more active member of the Apostolate, please contact us and we will send you information about how you can become an Associate. You may want to plan guided group retreats, single or family retreats at the Centre or to organize retreats or speaking engagements in your area. Most of all, we need your prayers, so that one or more priests may be found who have a genuine calling to the Divine Mercy. One of the most striking quotes from St. Faustina’s Diary that has profoundly touched my life is found in entry #1317: *“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.”*

This Divine Mercy Centre needs to be developed further. It needs to be a place of refuge, a place where mercy is taught and received. It needs to be a place where the true Catholic faith is upheld, where love reigns, where the heart can beat free for the mercy of God and the soul can soar to the highest Heavens. Through it all, we are keeping true to the original vision given to me by the Lord fourteen years ago. We want you to continue to be part of all this: write to us, send us your prayer requests, call us, check out our monthly letters on the web-site, join us on pilgrimages. Perhaps you have a special gift to share with the Centre or know someone who would like to pray and work with us. Please don't hesitate to call us!

Our mission – as well as yours – is to make mercy present by turning to His mercy with trust, receiving His mercy with thanksgiving and sharing His mercy with joy. We, as followers of Christ, are to be “mercy in action”. May the light of Jesus Christ radiate through us and may our hearts overflow with mercy into every heart we meet. Your prayers, thoughts, physical help and financial aid are very greatly appreciated.

May the God of Mercy bless you a thousand-fold! We promise to continue to be faithful to our calling and to the prayerful remembrance of your needs. I would like to close with a beautiful poem by Helen Steiner Rice, an appropriate end to this letter.

On the Wings of Prayer

*Just close your eyes and open your heart,
And feel your worries and cares depart.
Just yield yourself to the Father above
And let Him hold you secure in His love.
For life on earth grows more involved
With endless problems that can't be solved.
But God only asks us to do our best,
Then He will take over and finish the rest.
So when you are tired, discouraged and blue,
There's always one door that is open to you,
And that is the door to the house of prayer,
And you'll find God waiting to meet you there...
And the house of prayer is no farther away
Than the quiet spot where you kneel and pray,
For the heart is a temple when God is there,
As we place ourselves in His loving care.*

Helen Steiner Rice

**Yours in the service
of our merciful Lord,**

