Devotion to the Divine Mercy

How does Jesus ask us to venerate His Divine Mercy? There are five ways: (i) venerating the image that He asked Saint Faustina to have painted; (ii) praying the Divine Mercy chaplet; (iii) performing acts of mercy; (iv) praying the Novena of Divine Mercy; and, (v) participating in the Feast of Divine Mercy

***Acts of Mercy***

Our Lord tells St. Faustina that devotion to His Divine Mercy requires acts of mercy:

**“…If a soul does not exercise mercy somehow or other, it will not obtain My mercy on the day of judgment.”** (para. 1307)

**“…even the strongest faith is of no avail without works.”** (742)

He tells St. Faustina of the different types of acts of mercy:

**“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, a soul glorifies and pays reverence to My mercy. “** (742)

… and talks of the act of mercy that He finds most desirable:

**“Daughter, I need sacrifice lovingly accomplished, because that alone has meaning for Me. Enormous indeed are the debts of the world which are due to Me; pure souls can pay them by their sacrifice, exercising mercy of spirit.”** (1316) ; and,

**“…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 permissions nor storehouses, is much more meritorious and is within the grasp of every soul.”** (1317)

The following prayer of St. Faustina’s offers powerful insights into spiritual acts of mercy:

Help me, O Lord that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbors’ souls and come to their rescue.

Help me, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to my neighbors’ needs and not be indifferent to their pains and moanings.

Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of my neighbor, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.

Help me, O Lord, that my hands may be merciful and filled with good deeds, so that I may do only good to my neighbors and take upon myself the more difficult and toilsome tasks.

Help me, that my feet may be merciful, so that I may hurry to assist my neighbor, overcoming my own fatigue and weariness. My true rest is in the service of my neighbor.

Help me, O Lord, that my heart may be merciful so that I myself may feel all the sufferings of my neighbor. I will refuse my heart to no one. I will be sincere even with those who, I know, will abuse my kindness. And I will lock myself up in the most merciful Heart of Jesus. I will bear my own suffering in silence. May Your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me.

O my Jesus, transform me into Yourself, for You can do all things. (163)