

Saint Faustina Kowalska (Elena Kowalska)

Born 25 August 1905, Glogowiec, Poland

Died 5 October 1938, Cracovia, Poland

"Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to Divine Mercy," This was the message that Jesus gave Faustina Kowalska, the obscure young nun He chose to introduce Divine Mercy.

The daughter of a working-class family, baptized Elena, she entered the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in 1925, taking the name of Maria Faustina. On 22 February 1931, Faustina experienced a vision of Jesus in which He instructed her to produce his image as she saw Him. Working with a painter, Faustina produced the now-familiar portrait of the Merciful Jesus, with two beams of light radiating from his heart.

He further charged Faustina with three tasks: First, remind the world of God's merciful love for every human being. Second, spread devotion to the Divine Mercy through veneration of the image; instituting a feast of the Divine Mercy; reciting the chaplet of the Divine Mercy; and praying at the Hour of Mercy (3:00 pm). And third, proclaim and entreat God's mercy for the world and an attitude of mercy toward one's neighbour.

In the summer of 1934, at the request of her confessor, Faustina began keeping a diary. This was a daunting prospect for a girl with less than three years of schooling, but she had no choice. *"It is my will,"* Jesus told her, *"that you should write. You do not live for yourself but for others' souls. Write so that they might learn to love me. Write of my mercy."*

Faustina recorded all the Lord's instructions and described the encounters between her soul and God. Today Faustina's diary, published under the title *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, is ranked a spiritual classic alongside the world of Teresa of Avila and Therese of Lisieux

The Genius of Faustina Kowalska::

Faustina wrote in her diary: *"Neither graces, nor revelations, nor raptures, nor gifts granted to a soul make it perfect ... My sanctity and perfection consist in the close union of my will with the will of God."*

Reflection:

"You won renown for your wondrous deeds; / gracious and merciful is the LORD."

Psalm 111.4

Gallick, Sarah [The Big Book of Women Saints](#) p. 301