

## Divine Mercy –1

### Is there unforgivable sin?

Mark 3, 22-30

#### *Jesus and Beelzebul*

Then he went home; <sup>20</sup> and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. <sup>21</sup> When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” <sup>22</sup> And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” <sup>23</sup> And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. <sup>27</sup> But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

**<sup>28</sup> “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— <sup>30</sup> for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”**

## Reconciling Unforgivable Sin with Divine Mercy-St. Faustina

### Unforgivable Sin?

**Mark: 3, 22-30**-<sup>28</sup> *“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”*— <sup>30</sup> *for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”*

What actually is Unforgivable Sin?

Video 1-Father Chris Alar video– The Unforgivable Sin- Divine Mercy , Stockton MA

**Diary Of St. Faustina: 1059:** *I desire trust from My creatures. Encourage souls to place great trust in My fathomless mercy. Let the weak, sinful soul have no fear to approach Me, for even if it had more sins than there are grains of sand in the world, all would be drowned in the unmeasurable depths of My mercy.*

Video 2-Ocean of Mercy Video-

**Reconciling with Divine Mercy-**

**Other resources:**

**Dives et Misericordia- Encyclical by St. John Paul II 1981**

**Youtube videos of Father Chris Alar, MIC Director of Shrine of Divine Mercy Conversion Story of Father Don Calloway– No Turning Back Conversion Video- YouTube**

## **Mark: 3, 22-30**

<sup>28</sup> “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — <sup>30</sup> for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

## **New Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition (Mt 12:30–32)**

31 Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

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## **Luke 12:10 (NRSVCE)**

10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

Mark 3:28–30 (NRSVCE)

<sup>28</sup> “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an **eternal sin**” —<sup>30</sup> for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Verbum Study Bible

§ d 28–30 Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit; cf. Mt 12:31 f.; Lk 12:10—In this context ‘blasphemy’ is to be understood in accordance with the primary sense of βλασφημεῖν ‘to slander, calumniate’. It is clear from 30 that ‘blasphemy against the Holy Ghost’ is the sin committed by those who attributed to the power of Satan the expulsion of demons by Christ. These miraculous works of mercy were so clearly due to the beneficent operation of divine power that to attribute them to Satan was a calumny of diabolical malice. Unlike other blasphemies or sins which might be partially excused by ignorance, passion or inadvertence, this was a sin of wilful malice and blindness to the light. As long as such a mentality persists, pardon is impossible, not because of any limitation on the power or mercy of God, but because those who are guilty of this sin refuse to respond to the promptings of grace.

## Catechism and Companion documents:

1864 “Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.” **There are no limits to the mercy of God, but anyone who deliberately refuses to accept his mercy by repenting, rejects the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit. Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss.**



Catechism and Companion documents: Reference- *Dominum et vivificantem* 46 , Section 6

Against the background of what has been said so far, certain other words of Jesus, shocking and disturbing ones, become easier to understand. We might call them the words of “unforgiveness”.

They are reported for us by the Synoptics in connection with a particular sin which is called “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit”. This is how they are reported in their three versions:

Mat- thew: “Whoever says a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”

Mark: “All sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.”

Luke: “Every one who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.”

Why is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit unforgivable? How should this blasphemy be understood? Saint Thomas Aquinas replies that it is a question of a sin that is “unforgivable by its very nature, insofar as it excludes the elements through which the forgiveness of sin takes place”.

According to such an exegesis, *“blasphemy” does not properly consist in offending against the Holy Spirit in words; it consists rather in the refusal to accept the salvation which God offers to man through the Holy Spirit, working through the power of the Cross.*

**Ps 103:8–14**

**8**    *The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

**9**    *He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.*

**10**    *He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

**11**    *For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;*

**12**    *as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.*

**13**    *As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.*

**14**    *For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.*

**ACTS 13- 38**: Therefore, let it be known to you, brothers, that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. **39** Through Him everyone who believes is justified from everything from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

***How are we to reconcile the infinite Mercy of God, that is, of Divine Mercy with unforgivable sin?***

***Father Chris Alar of Divine Mercy Shrine: Video1***

Let us listen to this brief video to an extension of these concepts. Keep in mind that the scribes essentially attributed Jesus' miraculous healings and forgiveness of sin to the devil or forces of evil. It is one thing to sin against the will of God, but a significantly other thing and malicious action to state that the actions of God are from the evil one.

***Aquinas: Why is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit unforgivable? How should this blasphemy be understood? Saint Thomas Aquinas replies that it is a question of a sin that is “unforgivable by its very nature, insofar as it excludes the elements through which the forgiveness of sin takes place.” it consists rather in the refusal to accept the salvation which God offers to man through the Holy Spirit, working through the power of the Cross.***

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*Father Chris Alar- the Unforgivable Sin*



**UNFORGIVABLE SIN**

Saint Faustina

1905-1938



The Secretary of Divine Mercy

*How are we to reconcile the infinite Mercy of God, that is, of Divine Mercy with unforgivable sin?*

*Ocean of Mercy Video -Part 1:*

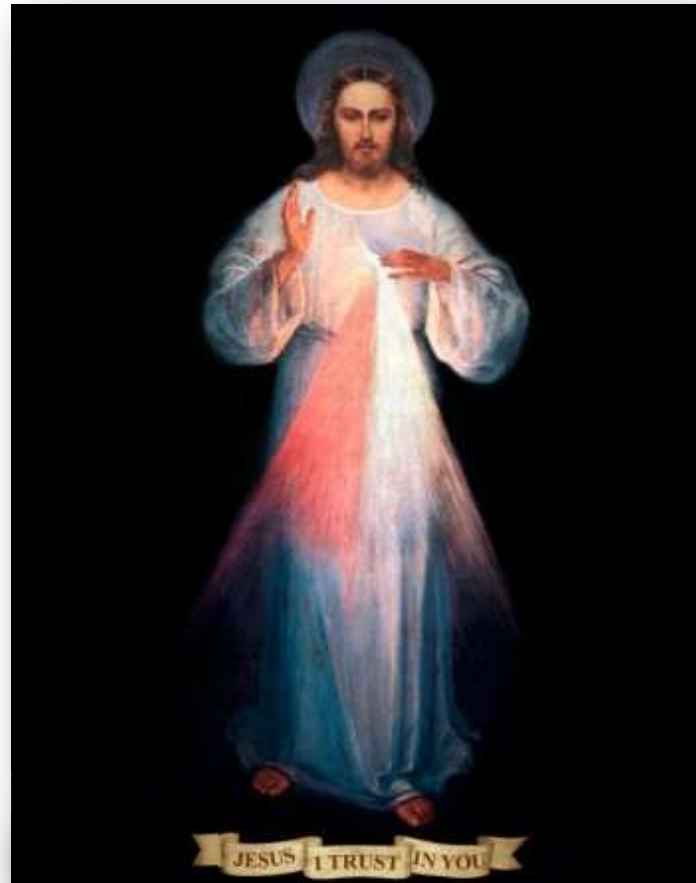
June 1924

“As I began to dance I suddenly saw Jesus at my side,” Sr. Faustina wrote several years later in her *Diary*. He looked as though He was on the Way of the Cross — “racked with pain, stripped of His clothing, all covered with wounds.” Like a jealous youth, He reproached her, saying, **“How long shall I put up with you and how long will you keep putting Me off?”** (*Diary*, 9).



**“Today, I am sending you with My mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My merciful Heart” (Diary, 1588).**

***“You are the secretary of My mercy; I have chosen you for that office in this and the next life” (Diary, 1605) ... “to make known to souls the great mercy that I have for them, and to exhort them to trust in the bottomless depth of My mercy” (Diary, 1567)***



Diary Of St. Faustina: 1059: *I desire trust from My creatures. Encourage souls to place great trust in My fathomless mercy. Let the weak, sinful soul have no fear to approach Me, for even if it had more sins than there are grains of sand in the world, all would be drowned in the unmeasurable depths of My mercy.*





1146 (39) [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.

**Write: *Before I come as a just Judge, I first open wide the door of My mercy. He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice...***



Saint Faustina

1905-1938



## Devotion of Divine Mercy

### The Message of Divine Mercy (our ABC's)

“A”sk for God’s mercy

“B”e merciful to each other

“C”ompletely trust in God’s mercy



### The Devotion of Divine Mercy

F = Feast of DM

I = Image of DM

N = Novena of DM

C = Chaplet of DM

H = Hour of DM



Jesus: "Your misery does not hinder  
My mercy. My daughter, write that  
the greater the misery of a soul, the  
greater its right to My mercy; [urge]  
all souls to trust in the  
unfathomable abyss of My mercy,  
because I want to save them all"

(Diary, 1182)

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos wrote, “None of the damned was ever lost because his sin was too great, but because his trust was too small!”

*This is the message of divine mercy, acknowledging sin no matter what the magnitude of the sin, trusting in forgiveness.*



*Ocean of Mercy clip*

# Ocean of Mercy



1142 (38) June 4. Today is the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. During Holy Mass, I was given the knowledge of the Heart of Jesus and of the nature of the fire of love with which He burns for us and of how He is an Ocean of Mercy. Then I heard a voice: *Apostle of My mercy, proclaim to the whole world My unfathomable mercy. Do not be discouraged by the difficulties you encounter in proclaiming My mercy. These difficulties that affect you so painfully are needed for your sanctification and as evidence that this work is Mine. My daughter, be diligent in writing down every sentence I tell you concerning My mercy, because this is meant for a great number of souls who will profit from it.*



Jesus said: "I desire trust from My creatures. Let the weak, sinful soul have no fear to approach Me, for even if it had more sins than there are grains of sand in the world, all would be drowned in the unmeasurable depths of My mercy" (Diary, 1059)



## The Message of Divine Mercy (our ABC's)

“A”sk for God’s mercy

“B”e merciful to each other

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## The Devotion of Divine Mercy

F = Feast of DM

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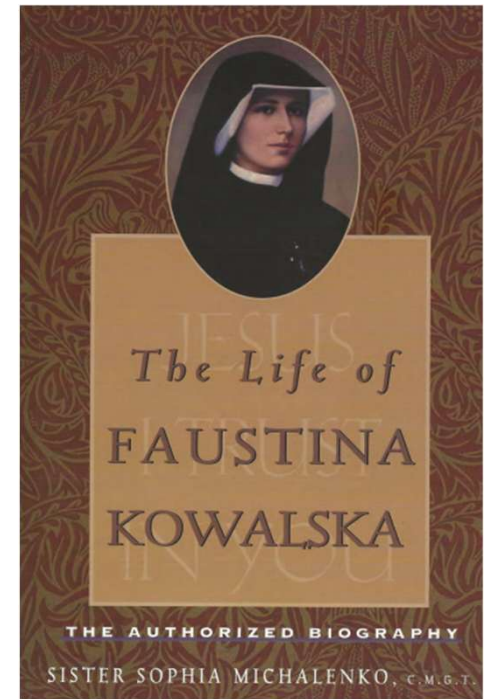
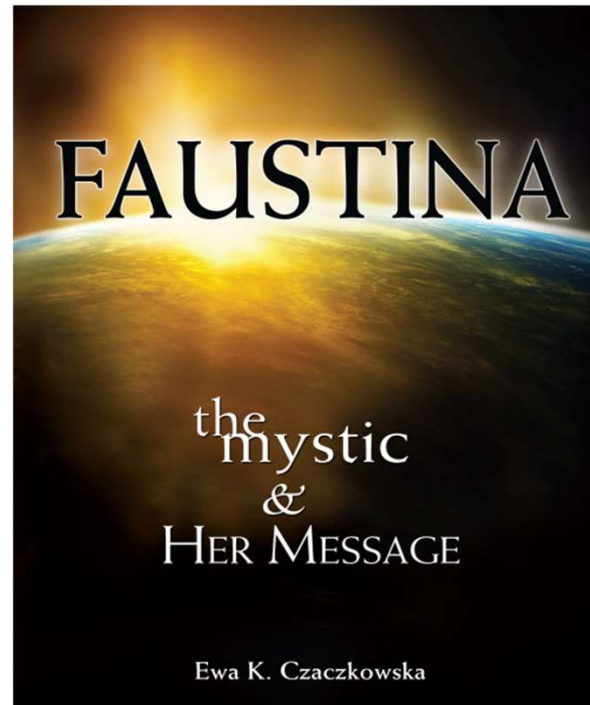
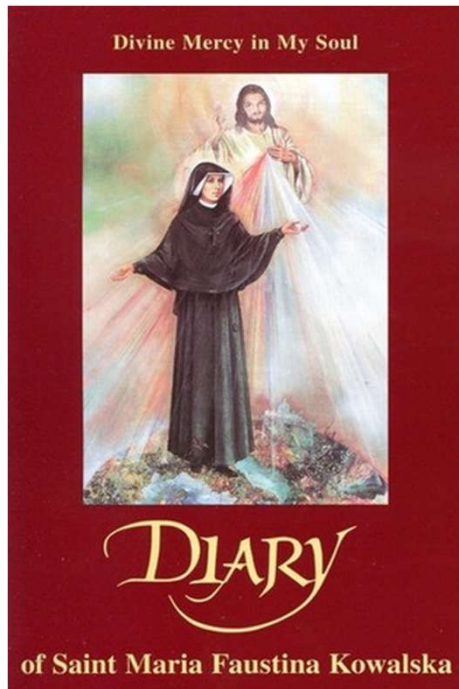
H = Hour of DM



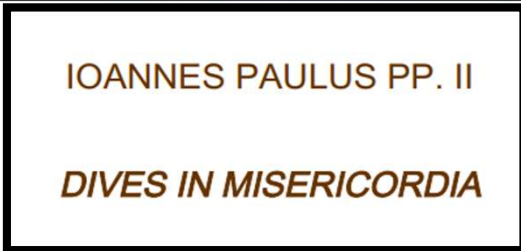
**“Can the sin that is the “unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit” be reconciled with the unfathomable Divine Mercy that God offers us and ultimately be forgiven?”**

*As we have learned it is not so much the content of the sin but the malice of complete rejection by the sinner of God's forgiveness either based on lack of trust or pride that makes it unforgiveable and places one outside of the working of the Holy Spirit. Thus, all sin becomes forgivable if we sincerely ask for God's mercy, be merciful to one another, and completely trust in God's mercy.*

## Resources



Fr. Callaway– No Turning Back Conversion Video- YouTube



Encyclical

## Other Verbum notes

§ 697a 31–32 Blasphemy of the Spirit (Mk 3:28–30; Lk 12:10)—The meaning of ‘blasphemy of the Spirit’ is to be determined by the context. In the first place, it is blasphemy against (objective genitive) the holy Spirit; cf. 32. But, secondly, what precisely is the sin in question? The context (to which 31–32 are closely tied; cf. ‘therefore’ in 31 and even more explicitly Mk 3:30) is decisive. The sin referred to is one of which an example has just been furnished by the Pharisees. They have perversely attributed to Satan what is clearly the work of God. This is only one example of conscious, hardened rejection of God’s proffered light—the root-vice of the Pharisees (cf. Jn 9:41; 3:19 f.) as of others. This is the direct affront of the Spirit of wisdom; cf. e.g. 1 Cor 2:10–13. It is the sin ‘that remaineth’, Jn 9:41. Why does it ‘remain’? Why is it unforgivable? Of its very nature. Man cannot be saved without the gifts of God, one of which is forgiveness. If these gifts are perseveringly refused nothing can be done. ‘It is called “unforgivable” because of its very nature it precludes those things (i.e. the dispositions) which induce forgiveness. However, we cannot thus exclude the power and mercy of God which can find a way of forgiveness ... by which, as it were miraculously, he heals such sinners’, ST II, 2, 14, a. 3. Even in this hypothesis of a ‘quasi-miraculous’ grace the sinner is presumed to accept it. At that moment and to that extent he ceases to affront the Spirit; he ceases to be a blasphemer of the Spirit because he has (though tardily) accepted God’s light. Our Lord’s statement is therefore literally true: it shall never be forgiven because it refuses to be forgiven. The ‘word against the Son of Man’ is, though grave, forgivable. To assail the human conduct of our Lord (e.g. 9:11 or even 16:22) is an insult to his compassionate humanity but it proceeds from a misreading of God’s ways. It may presuppose a religious, if indocile, spirit. It finds some excuse in the fact that the Word has taken flesh and is, to that degree, veiled. But an attack upon the Son of Man when manifestly wielding the power of the Spirit is conscious malice—an attack upon the Spirit himself.

Jones, A. (1953). The Gospel of Jesus Christ according to St Matthew. In B. Orchard & E. F. Sutcliffe (Eds.), A Catholic Commentary on Holy Scripture (p. 874). Thomas Nelson.

## Fear of God

**While fearing God in the OT can sometimes refer to a terror or dread of God (e.g., Gen 3:10), most often it refers to an awe or reverence toward God. To “fear Yahweh” means to serve and be faithful to him (Josh 24:14–15). It includes an aspect of worship, as the people of Israel are commanded to “fear Yahweh” and not fear other gods (2 Kgs 17:35–36). The concept of fearing God is also closely linked with obedience to the law (Deut 5:29; 8:6). To fear God is to have a proper response to his holiness (Isa 8:13).**

**Custis, M. (2014). Fear. In D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), Lexham Theological Wordbook. Lexham Press.**