

A full-length illustration of Jesus Christ with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe. He has a golden halo around his head. From his heart, a large, multi-colored beam of light (red, orange, yellow, green, blue) radiates downwards, passing through the text. His right hand is raised in a gesture of blessing, and his left hand is near his chest.

Jesus I trust in you

- *Devotion to Divine Mercy*
- *Prayers of St. Faustina Kowalska*



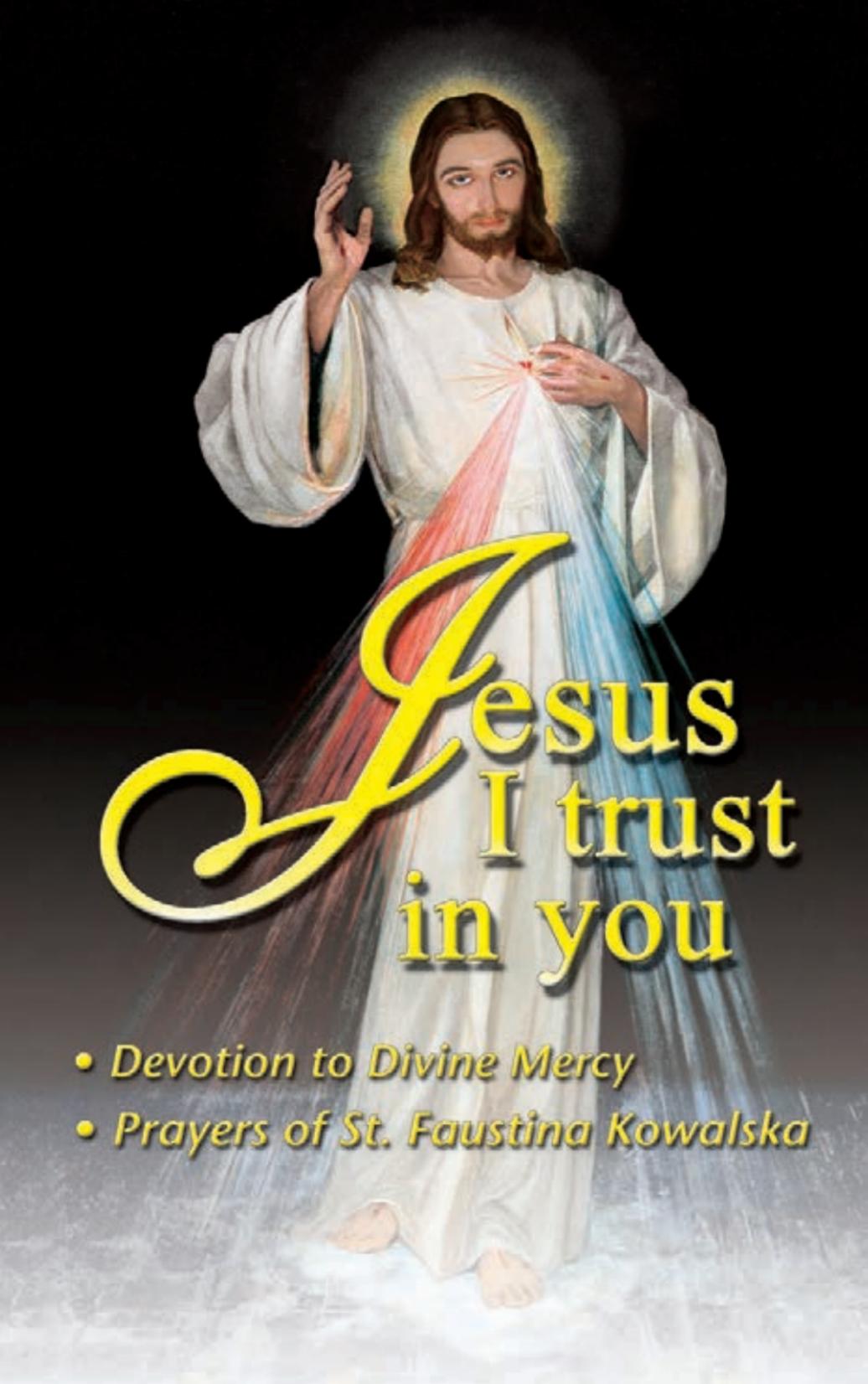
SHALOM



Collection: **THE SON**

Imprimatur:
Virgilio Cardinal Noé

The Vatican City 20th August 1994

A religious illustration of Jesus Christ with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe. He has a golden halo around his head. From his chest, a vibrant rainbow of light rays emanates downwards, creating a path of light. The background is dark, making the light rays stand out.

Jesus
I trust
in you

- *Devotion to Divine Mercy*
- *Prayers of St. Faustina Kowalska*

Collaborators:

Texts: **Extracts from the Diary of Saint Sister Faustina Kowalska**

Original title of the book: **Milosierdzie Boze w duszy mojej. Dzienniczek**

Translation from Italian: **Helen O'Gorman**

© Copyright 1992. The congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy ul. Zylnia 3/9, 01-014 Warsaw Poland.

© Copyright Shalom ®

(30.04.2000 Sunday of the Divine Mercy and Beatification of Faustina Kowalska)

ISBN 978-88-86616-24-9

To order this book please quote code 8131

For your orders please contact:



TOTUS TUUS

Shalom Publishers

via Galvani, 1 (Industrial Estate)
60020 Camerata Picena (An)

Tel. +39 071. 74 50 440 automatic reply
from Monday to Friday
from 9.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Fax +39 071. 74 50 140
on at all times of day and night.

e-mail: ordina@editriceshalom.it

<http://www.editriceshalom.it>

Index

<i>At the school of Mary to learn the sublime art of trusting in God</i>	9
<i>In the footsteps of John Paul II</i>	10

PART ONE

SAINT FAUSTINA	17
THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH	27
THE ORIGIN AND THE FORMS OF THIS FAITH	55
THE CORE OF THE FAITH	137
• 1. Trust	137
• 2. Mercy	150
THE IMAGE OF MERCIFUL JESUS	163
THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY	169
• Novena to Divine Mercy	173
• The Celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy	191
THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY	199
• The beginning of the chaplet of Divine Mercy	202
THREE O’CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON:	
THE HOUR OF MERCY	205
• The Stations of the Cross	209
• Invocation during the Hour of Mercy	228
DIFFUSION OF FAITH IN DIVINE MERCY	247

PART TWO

SAINT FAUSTINA'S PRAYERS	251
• To the Most Holy Trinity	252
• <i>Thank you Most Holy Trinity</i>	<i>252</i>
• <i>Most Holy Trinity, Eternal God</i>	<i>253</i>
• To God the Father	254
• <i>Oh God, relief of the dying.....</i>	<i>254</i>
• <i>Oh my God</i>	<i>255</i>
• <i>Oh most benevolent God</i>	<i>255</i>
• <i>Be adored our Creator</i>	<i>256</i>
• <i>Oh God who is merciful with sinners</i>	<i>257</i>
• <i>God, only hope</i>	<i>257</i>
• <i>Oh unfathomable Mercy</i>	<i>258</i>
• <i>Prayer to the Holy Father</i>	<i>258</i>
• To Jesus	259
• <i>For the Holy Church and for priests</i>	<i>259</i>
• <i>To obtain God's Mercy for the whole world.....</i>	<i>260</i>
• <i>Consecration of the world to Divine Mercy</i>	<i>261</i>
• <i>Prayers to obtain graces through the intercession of Saint Faustina</i>	<i>261</i>
• <i>Prayers in times of suffering</i>	<i>262</i>
• <i>Prayer for knowledge</i>	<i>263</i>
• <i>Prayer for one's homeland</i>	<i>263</i>
• <i>For the grace of being able to carry out merciful deeds towards our neighbour</i>	<i>264</i>
• <i>Prayer for sinners.....</i>	<i>265</i>
• <i>Prayer for a Happy Death</i>	<i>266</i>
• <i>Prayer to obtain God's Love</i>	<i>267</i>
• <i>Oh Jesus, Eternal God</i>	<i>267</i>
• <i>Oh hidden Jesus</i>	<i>268</i>
• <i>Oh Jesus, my Lord and Master</i>	<i>268</i>

• <i>Oh Jesus, life of my soul</i>	269
• <i>Oh Jesus, Eternal Virtue</i>	269
• <i>Oh Jesus, my guide</i>	269
• <i>Oh Jesus, I trust in You</i>	270
• <i>Oh most sweet Jesus</i>	270
• <i>Oh Jesus, make my heart like Yours</i>	270
• <i>Oh crucified Jesus</i>	271
• <i>Before the Most Blessed Sacrament</i>	272
• <i>Act of oblation</i>	274
• <i>Act of faith in Divine Mercy</i>	276
• <i>Act of offering</i>	277
• <i>Why I trust in you</i>	278
• To the Holy Spirit	280
• To the Mother of God	281
• <i>Prayer to the Mother of Perpetual Succour</i>	284
• <i>Novena to the Madonna</i>	285
• <i>Chaplet to the Mother of God</i>	286
THE HOLY ROSARY	289
LITANIES TO DIVINE MERCY	315
LITANIES OF SAINT FAUSTINA	320
LITURGICAL TEXTS	325
• Votive mass to divine mercy	325
• Mass of the second Sunday of Easter	
to Divine Mercy	331
• Liturgical memory of Saint Faustina	
(5th October)	341
• <i>Holy mass</i>	341
• <i>Liturgy of the hours</i>	349
APPENDIX	388

*A*t the school of Mary to learn the sublime art of trusting in God

Jesus, I trust in You! This act of faith and abandonment to the love of God is simple yet profound. It constitutes an essential strongpoint for man, because it is capable of transforming our lives. In the countless trials and difficulties of our existence and during moments of joy and enthusiasm, trusting in the Lord instils a sense of peace in the soul, leading it to recognise the primacy of the divine initiative and opening up the spirit to humility and truth.

Jesus, I trust in You! Thousands and thousands of devotees throughout the world repeat this simple yet evocative invocation. Those who are tormented by the pain of existence find peace in the heart of Jesus; those who are afflicted with suffering and illness find relief; those who feel choked by uncertainty and anxiety experience joy, because Christ's heart is the abyss of consolation and love for those who turn towards him with faith. Sister Faustina lived and is now buried near Cracow, in a district called Łagiewniki. Right beside Łagiewniki was the Solvay chemical factory, where I worked as a labourer for the four years of the war and the Nazi occupation. I would never have imagined during that era, when I was a factory worker, that I would have one day spoken of my experience there as the bishop of Rome.

That experience as a factory worker and at the same time a "clandestine" seminarist remained with me throughout my life. During those terrible times of war and hiding, when people lived thanks to their faith in God and His Mother, I learnt to have faith in the Holy Virgin.

1 March 2003

Joannes Paulus n. II

*I*n the footsteps of John Paul II: two interventions by Pope Benedict XVI on Divine Mercy

The Evangelist once again recalls that in both apparitions – the day of the Resurrection and eight days later – the Lord Jesus showed the disciples the signs of the crucifixion, which were clearly visible and tangible, even on his glorious body (*ref. John 20:20.27*). Those sacred wounds, on his hands, on his feet and on his side, are an unfathomable fountain of mercy, hope and love from which everyone can draw, especially the souls who thirst the most for his divine mercy.

Considering this and valuing the experience of a humble Sister, Saint Faustina Kowalska, the servant of God John Paul II wanted the Sunday after Easter to be dedicated in a special way to Divine Mercy; Fate had it that he died on the eve of this day, in the hands of Divine Mercy. The mystery of God's merciful love was at the core of the pontificate of my most venerated Predecessor.

In the year 1980, let us recall in particular, the Encyclical *Dives in Misericordia* and the dedication of the new Shrine of Divine Mercy in Cracow in 2002. The words that he uttered on the latter occasion were like a summary of his teaching, highlighting the fact

that faith in divine mercy is not a form of secondary devotion, but an integrating dimension of the faith and prayer of the Christian.

Regina Caeli, 23.4.2006

Dear brothers and sisters!

During the Jubilee Year of 2000, the beloved Servant of God, John Paul II established that throughout the Church, the Sunday after Easter and the Sunday in Albis, would also be referred to as the Sunday of Divine Mercy.

This came about at the same time as the canonisation of Faustina Kowalska, a humble Polish Sister, born in 1905 and who died in 1938, the conscientious messenger of the Merciful Jesus.

Mercy is in actual fact the central nucleus of the evangelical message, it is the very name of God, the face with which He revealed Himself in the ancient Alliance and fully in Jesus Christ, the incarnation of creating and redeeming Love. This love of mercy also illuminates the face of the Church, and it manifests itself through the Sacraments, in particular, that of Reconciliation, with works of shared and individual works of charity. Everything that the Church says and does is a manifestation of the mercy that God has for man.

When the Church has to reprimand a denied truth or a betrayed good, it always does so pushed by merciful love, so that men might have life and that they might have it in abundance (*ref. John 10:10*). From divine mercy, which pacifies hearts, the authentic peace of the

world pours fourth, the peace between different peoples, cultures and religions.

Like Sister Faustina, John Paul II in turn became an apostle of Divine Mercy.

On the unforgettable evening of Saturday 2nd April 2005, when he closed his eyes to this world, it was the eve of the second Sunday of Easter, and many people noticed this remarkable coincidence, which united the Marian dimension within it – the first Saturday of the Month – and that of Divine Mercy.

In fact, the core of his lengthy and multifaceted pontificate lies here; his whole mission at the service of the truth about God, man and peace in the world is summarised in this announcement, as he himself said in Cracow-Łagiewniki in 2002, upon inaugurating the great Shrine to Divine Mercy: “Outside of God’s mercy there is no other source of hope for human beings”.

His message, like that of Saint Faustina, therefore harps back to the face of Christ, the supreme revelation of God’s mercy.

Contemplate that Face constantly; this is the inheritance that he left us, and that we joyfully welcome and make our own.

Divine Mercy will be the object of special reflection over the next few days, during the World’s First Apostolic Conference on Divine Mercy, which will take place in Rome and which will open with Mass, which, God willing, I will preside over on the morning of April 2nd, on the third anniversary of the pious death of the servant of God, John Paul II.

Let us place the Conference under the celestial

protection of Mary most blessed Mater Misericordiae.

To her we entrust the great cause of peace in the world, so that God's mercy might fulfil that which is impossible for human forces alone, and that it might give hearts the courage to turn towards dialogue and reconciliation.

Regina Caeli 30.3.2008

© LEV Libreria Editrice Vaticana

Part One



To know and love
Divine
Mercy





Saint

The testimony and the mission of Saint Faustina's life indicate to us how we may accomplish the task of proclaiming and introducing the mystery of mercy and great prayer into our lives. Prayer which is the true cry to God for mercy, proposed by the Holy Father to all the Church.

Sister Faustina Kowalska was born in 1905 in Glogowiec, near Łódz, in central Poland, into a poor peasant family of 10 children, of whom she was the third.

From the early age of 7 years she felt a strong calling from God for the grace of a vocation and a religious life. "At the age of 7 I heard the voice of God in my soul for the first time, that is, the calling to a more perfect life, but I didn't always obey the voice of grace. I never met anyone who was able to clarify these things to me".

At the age of 18 years St. Faustina consistently asked her parents' permission to enter a convent but they consistently refused. "After such refusal, I dedicated myself to the vanities of life, not paying any attention to the voice of grace, even though my soul could not find

peace in anything. The calling to grace was continuous and it was a great source of torment for me, but I tried to suffocate it with hobbies. I tried to avoid meeting God in an intimate way and with all of my heart I dedicated my time to God's creatures."

But it was the grace of God which won my soul over in the end. I had gone to a dance with one of my sisters. While everyone else was enjoying themselves very much, my soul began to experience great torment. At the precise moment in which I began dancing, I suddenly noticed Jesus beside me, He had been whipped, stripped of His clothes, and completely covered in wounds, and He said the following words to me: "*For how long more do I have to put up with you? For how long more will you continue to elude Me?*". I was suddenly alone with Jesus. I sat down beside my dear sister, pretending that I had a headache. Soon afterwards I left my sister and the other company at the dance and I went to the Cathedral of St. Stanislaus Kostka. It was almost dark. There were very few people in the Cathedral. Without paying any attention to what was happening around me, I bowed down with outstretched arms in front of the Most Holy Sacrament and I asked the Lord if He would tell me what He wished me to do. Then I heard the following words: "*Leave immediately for Warsaw, there you will enter a convent*". *I stood up, went home and immediately took care of a few essential matters that needed to be seen to*" (8-10)¹.

From her early childhood she could be singled out for her love for prayer, her diligent nature, her obedience and her great sensitivity towards the poor.

1. See the Diary of Saint Faustina Kowalska, The Vatican bookshop and publishers 1996, The numbers in brackets indicate the paragraphs of the Diary.

She attended school for 3 years only. At the age of sixteen, she left home to begin work as a servant for wealthy families. At the age of twenty she entered the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, where she lived the last thirteen years of her life with the name of Sister Mary Faustina. She was sent to stay in various houses, especially in Cracow, Plock and Vilnius, where she performed the duties of cook, gardener and porter.

On the outside, the life of Sister Faustina seemed normal, and maybe even monotonous and grey, but in reality she led an extraordinarily rich life, thanks to her intense interior life, which was full of mystical experiences.

Even from her childhood, Sister Faustina wanted to become a great Saint and she continued to strive towards that goal with all of her strength. She was always willing to collaborate with Jesus Christ in order to save the souls, even to the extent of offering up her own life for sinners. The years of her religious life were marked by suffering and at the same time by mystical graces. The Lord gave her extraordinary gifts: visions, apparitions, hidden stigmata, participation in the Passion of Our Lord, mystical union, all of which helped her to come to know the mystery of His mercy.

It was to this Polish nun, who was simple and uneducated, yet strong, humble and with a great sense of trust in God, that the Lord addressed the following surprising words: *“In the Old Testament I sent my people prophets wielding thunderbolts. Today I send you to all of humanity with My Mercy. I do not want to punish suffering humanity, but I want to heal it and hold it close to My Merciful Heart”* (1588).

*S*he made Everyday Life an Extraordinary Life

Sister Faustina did not complete any great works during her lifetime which may have been subject of great thanksgiving or indeed wonder. She hadn't finished her schooling, she worked as a servant, and in the convent she carried out the tasks of a cook, gardener and porter.

As we have seen, her life, seen from the outside, seemed monotonous and somewhat grey. Everyday was the same as the previous one, with the same rhythm of prayer and work. But under this normality however, lay a richness of internal life which was superior to all normality.

The greatest desire of her life was to reach Sainthood, a desire towards which she constantly strived, even from early childhood (1372).

With this great desire in mind she was able to attach less importance to all other forms of desire and take advantage of the circumstances in which Divine Providence had put her.

She strived towards perfection, not following her own path, not according to her own vision of Holiness, but according to that which God had chosen for her, the path towards a faithful fulfilling of His Will always and in everything, even though it was sometimes a difficult road, it was a road of charity towards others.

Sister Faustina did not hide the fact that this road towards perfection tired her greatly.

"I begin the day struggling and I end it struggling, as

soon as I remove one difficulty others come in its place, then others to be overcome, but I do not let this worry me, since I know well that this is a time of struggle and not of peace” (606).

She knew how to find within everyday life the richness of occasions and the means with which she could build on her own holiness. She never underestimated the little things, since, as she herself used to say: “A magnificent building will never come about if we cast aside all the smaller bricks” (112). She accepted life for what it was, and believed that God would transform this greyness into sanctity (1363).

She left us therefore, with a very simple model of holiness which at the same time was very fascinating, an example which consisted of the sanctification of everyday life with the spirit of infinite faith in the goodness of the Heavenly Father and of active charity towards our neighbour, she was an example which harmoniously unifies contemplation with action, she is an example within the reach of everyone of us.

She is a particularly up to date model of Christian perfection, not only thanks to her simplicity, but also because of the necessities of the modern world, which we tend to feel ever more painfully: loss, fear, desperation and a great hunger for authentic human love. Sister Faustina is, therefore, like a living portrait of Divine Mercy.

She is a symbol of infinite trust in God and a perfect model of the practicality of the law of the gospel which promotes charity towards our neighbour. Mary, Our Lady of Mercy, was both a teacher and a mother to her on this her road towards Christian perfection and she

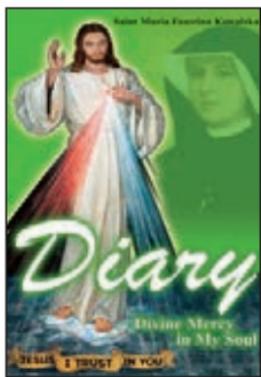
was also the patron of the congregation. From Mary she learnt by example, and she was given the strength to complete her mission which can be summarised as follows:

- To remind the world of what we believe; as revealed in Sacred Scripture, about the merciful love of God towards every human, even the greatest of sinners.
- To convey new forms of devotion to Divine Mercy.
- To promote a great movement of apostles of Divine Mercy who shall lead people to renew their Christian life according to the spirit of this devotion; which may be summarised as the evangelistic spirit of trust in God, while showing charity and mercy towards all men.

Sister Faustina was consumed by tuberculosis and by the numerous sufferings which she endured and accepted willingly in sacrifice for sinners, she died in the odour of sanctity in Cracow, on the 5th of October 1938, at the young age of 33.

On the first Sunday of Easter, on the 18th of April 1993, the Holy Father John Paul II pronounced her beatification in St. Peter's Square in Rome. Seven years later, on the second Sunday of Easter, on the 30th of April 2000, the Pope sanctified Blessed Faustina Kowalska.

*The pages which follow are based entirely on the “Diary of Sister Faustina Kowalska”: You can purchase it in Catholic bookshops, at sanctuaries or alternatively you may order it and have it delivered to your own home, by telephoning Shalom Publishers and quoting the **code number: 8293** or by visiting it’s website (see page 4).*



“By means of the work of the Polish nun (the message of Divine Mercy) we are linked to the 20th century forever, the last century of the second millennium and a bridge towards the third millennium. It is not a new message, but it may be considered a gift of special enlightenment, which helps us to relive the Easter Gospel in a more intense way in order to be able to offer it as a ray of light to the men and women of our time”. Pope John Paul II.

Every Saint offers us an example of a search for Christian perfection with a determined spiritual and apostolic profile. St. Faustina is a remarkable example, because she was moulded by Christ himself, through her, He gave us an example of Christian perfection, which is rooted in the Gospel, which is legible and accessible to everyone. This model or example may be enclosed within a formula: Trust in God and love your neighbour. Jesus gave her great gifts, which were not only for her; since he entrusted her with a great mission: to bring the message of Divine Mercy to the whole world. Besides the message and the faith of Divine Mercy, the pages of Sister Faustina’s diary contain great warmth, intimacy, and at the same time simplicity and the immediacy of a dialogue of love which only a heart which was in love with Jesus, like that of the Saint, could feel.

*A*n essential chronology of Saint Faustina Kowalska

- 25.08.1905:** Helena Kowalska is born in Glogowiec.
- 27.08.1905:** Helena is baptised in the parish of Saint Casimir in Swinice Warckie.
- 1912:** The young Helena hears an inner voice calling her to holiness for the first time.
- 1917:** She starts primary school in Swinice.
- 1921:** She starts working to help her parents to support the family.
- 01.08.1925:** She starts her postulancy within the Congregation of the sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy in Warsaw.
- 30.04.1926:** She receives her habit and her name Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament.
- 30.04.1928:** Having finished her noviciate, sister Maria Faustina takes her first religious vows.
- 22.02.1931:** In a vision, the Lord Jesus asks Sister Faustina to paint the image according to what she saw.
- 01.05.1933:** Sister Faustina makes her perpetual profession.
- 02.01.1934:** For the first time she goes to the painter Eugeniusz Kazimierowski who has been appointed to paint the image of Divine Mercy.

- 29.03.1934:** Sister Faustina offers herself up for sinners and in a special way for the souls who have lost trust in Divine Providence.
- 06.1934:** The image is painted. Sister Faustina cries because the Lord isn't depicted as beautiful as how she saw him.
- 08.01.1936:** Sister Faustina goes to the archbishop Romauld Jalbrzykowski, the metropolitan of Vilnius, and she informs him that the Lord wants her to establish a new congregation.
- 13.12.1936:** Sister Faustina's confession before the Lord.
- 05.10.1938:** After a lengthy illness, sister Faustina dies in the convent in Cracow-Łagiewniki.
- 07.10.1938:** Solemn funeral of Sister Faustina in Cracow-Łagiewniki.
- 21.10.1965:** The informative trial gets underway in Cracow for the cause for canonisation.
- 25.11.1966:** Transferral Sister Faustina's mortal remains from the cemetery of the convent to the chapel of the sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy in Cracow-Łagiewniki.
- 20.09.1967:** Closure of the diocesan trial. The briefs are sent to Rome.
- 31.01.1968:** Opening of the canonisation trial at the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints.
- 18.04.1993:** John Paul II beatifies Sister Faustina in St. Peter's square.
- 30.04.2000:** John Paul II canonises Sister Faustina in St. Peter's square.