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DAY 26

The World's Darkness

This week, we've focused on better understanding the darkness of our own weakness, brokenness, and sin. And through that effort, we've come to find a light in the darkness, namely, God's own love that fills up the abyss of our nothingness.

Now, today, we're going to reflect on how the love that fills up the abyss of our nothingness also overflows. In fact, as we'll now learn, this overflowing love has the potential to engulf the entire world. I say it has "the potential," because it's up to us whether or not we'll let it. Alright, so here's a most important question: Do you want to help save the world?

Clearly, our world needs saving. As we learned on Day 13, in many ways we're living in a time of unprecedented darkness and evil. But for that very reason, in a sense, God is giving us unprecedented grace. In other words, now is the time of mercy. And guess what? During this blessed time, God wants to save the world by the power of Divine Mercy — through us.

Let me explain.

As we also learned on Day 13, St. Therese is a prophet who teaches us that in the present time of mercy, God wants to work some of the greatest miracles of his mercy in the history of the world. How? By taking some of the littlest souls and making them into some of the greatest of saints. Okay, but why? Is it so we can walk around with little halos around our heads and have nice spiritual conversations? No. It's to save the world. That's God's master plan in this time of mercy. He wants to save the world through a "legion" of little souls inspired by saints like Therese of Lisieux. And while St. Therese begged God for a "great number" of such souls, it actually doesn't take that many. It just takes you and me ... and maybe one other person.

If that sounds like crazy talk, don't blame me — blame the devil! After all, it was the devil himself who said to St. John Vianney, "If there were three upon earth like you, my kingdom would be destroyed." Just three! Or, don't blame the devil, blame Abraham, our father in faith. Remember how he spoke with God about Sodom and Gomorrah? He asked the Lord, "Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it?" (Gen 18:24). The Lord said he would spare it for their sake. But Abraham kept negotiating, "What about for the sake of 45?" "Yes, I'll spare it." 40? Yes. 30? Yes. 20? Yes. 10? Yes. Abraham stopped there, and because there weren't 10 righteous people in the city, it was destroyed. So, blame Abraham! After all, maybe he could have gotten the number down to just three.

Anyway, here's the point. Even though the world is immersed in darkness, our situation isn't hopeless. I mean, it doesn't take that many people to save the world. And why is that? Because, in a sense, the world has already been saved. In fact, Jesus Christ's suffering, death, and Resurrection was enough to save a gazillion worlds. However, as we learned on Day 7, the Lord relies on us to help bring his salvation to others, even to those at "the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Now, this doesn't mean we have to go on endless mission trips and pilgrimages.

Rather, we can be missionaries of Divine Mercy to the whole world through prayer. That's why St. Therese, who never left the convent, was declared "Patron Saint of Missionaries and the Missions," along with St. Francis Xavier. And while Francis physically went to the ends of the earth through apostolic labors, Therese's spiritually traveled the world through prayer. Specifically, her prayer of offering herself to Merciful Love caused God's mercy to overflow from her little soul and out to the whole world. So, imagine if at least three more of us lived the Offering to Merciful Love to the full!

But there's another extremely important prayer for the present time of mercy: The Chaplet of Divine Mercy. This prayer comes to us from St. Therese's friend, St. Faustina — and it's powerful. In fact, you might say that, in a sense, it's the most powerful prayer there is. What? Isn't the Mass the most powerful prayer? Yes, and that's why the Chaplet is so mighty. The Chaplet is a kind of extension of the prayer of the Mass. More specifically, it's an extension of the most powerful moment of the Mass, what I earlier called the "supercharged" moment. It's that moment at Mass when, "through him, with him, and in him," the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ is offered up to the Father as a perfect sacrifice of love. It's that moment at Mass when, in spiritual union with the priest at the altar, all the baptized can hold up Christ's perfect sacrifice of love to the Father as their own sacrifice.

Alright, so when we pray the Chaplet, the intention of this supercharged moment of the Mass becomes very focused.

Specifically, it becomes a plea for mercy. As we hold up Christ's perfect sacrifice of love to the Father, we cry out for mercy for ourselves and for the whole world. And the Father especially hears and answers such a perfect and moving prayer. (For more information on the Chaplet and how to pray it, see this endnote.)

So, that's the secret to saving the world. Inspired by Saints Therese and Faustina, it's to "borrow" the infinite merits of Christ on the Cross and to offer them as a perfect sacrifice of mercy for the whole world. And this easily can save the world.

Why? Because while the sins of the world are finite, the mercy that flows from the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross is infinite. For the sake of Christ's sorrowful passion, we just need at least three people calling out to the Father: "Have mercy on us and on the whole world!" That's the Chaplet. That's the way to save the world through the power of God's Merciful Love.

You know, it really is true. Just a small army of little souls can effectively help God to save the world by receiving all the rejected mercy that other souls don't want (the Offering to Merciful Love) and by calling out for mercy as they "borrow" the infinite merits of Christ on the Cross (the Chaplet). So, once again, do you want to help save the world?

**Today's Prayer:**

Come, Holy Spirit, fire of mercy.

Inspire me to help save the world as a prayerful missionary of Divine Mercy.

April 26, 1921

The war of the Divine Will

I continue in my painful condition. My sweet Jesus came for a brief time, drew me strongly to Himself, and said to me: “My daughter, I repeat it to you—do not look at the earth. Let them do what they want. They want to make war? So be it! When they grow weary, I too will make my war. Their weariness in evil, their disenchantment, disillusionment, and losses suffered, will dispose them to welcome my war. My war will be a war of love. My Will will descend from Heaven into their midst. All of your acts and those that others have done in my Volition will wage war on other creatures—but not a war of blood. They will wage war with weapons of love, giving them gifts, graces and peace. They will give such surprising things as to astonish ungrateful man. This Will of Mine, Heaven’s army, will confuse man with divine weapons. It will overwhelm him and give him the light to see—not evil—but the gifts and riches with which I want to endow him. The acts done in my Will carry the Creative Power within themselves and will be the new salvation of man. Descending from Heaven, they will bring every blessing to the earth. They will bring the New Era, and the triumph over human iniquity. That is why I want you to multiply your acts in my Will to form the weapons, gifts, and graces that will enable you to descend into the midst of creatures and wage love’s war upon them.”

Then, in a more afflicted tone, He added: “My daughter, the same thing will happen to Me as to a poor father, whose wicked children not only offend him, but want to kill him—and if they don’t do it, it is because they cannot. Now, since these children want to kill their father, it is no wonder that they kill one another, that one wars against the other, that they impoverish themselves, and reach the point of perishing. And what is worse, they don’t even remember that they have a father.

Now, this father, what does he do? Exiled by his own children—while they fight, wound one another, and are about to die of starvation—the father works hard to acquire new riches, gifts and remedies for his children. And when he sees that they are almost lost, he goes into their midst to make them richer; he offers remedies for their wounds, and brings peace and happiness to everyone. Then these children—having been conquered by so much love—will bind themselves to their father in a lasting peace, and will love him.

## **Volume 13**

November 19, 1921

Jesus: “I found the Little Daughter of my Will. I found you as the first, followed by the other daughters of my Will. Since I wanted my Mama with Me as the first link of Mercy, through which we had to open the doors to all creatures, I wanted to place my right arm upon Her. And I wanted you as the first link of Justice, to keep It from unleashing Itself upon all creatures as they deserve; and that is why I wanted to place my left arm upon you, so that you might uphold It together with Me.

“Now with these two supports I felt life come back to Me, and as if I had not suffered anything, with a firm step I went to meet my enemies. In all the pains that I suffered during my Passion—many of which were capable of giving Me death—these two

supports never left Me. And when they saw Me close to death, with my own Will which they contained they sustained Me, as though giving Me many sips of life. O the prodigies of my Volition! Who can ever count them and calculate their value? This is why I so much love the soul who lives in my Will: I recognize my portrait in her, my noble features; I feel my own breath, my voice; and if I did not love her, I would cheat Myself. I would be like a father without offspring, without the noble cortege of his court, and without the crown of his children. And if I did not have offspring, or a court or a crown, how could I call Myself a King? Indeed, My Kingdom is formed by those who live in my Will, and from this Kingdom I choose the Mother, the Queen, the children, the ministers, the army, and the people. I am everything to them, and they are everything to Me.”

## **Volume 19**

August 18, 1926

Jesus Encourages the Priest Responsible for the Printing of Luisa’s Writings about the Most Holy Divine Will. The Power of Acts Done in the Divine Will.

While I was praying, I found myself outside of my body; and, as this happened, I saw the Reverend Father who is responsible for printing the writings about the Most Holy Will of God—with Our Lady nearby. Our Lord took all the knowledge, effects and values that He had revealed about the Supreme Will, and these changed into threads of light. He sealed them in his mind in such a way that they formed a crown of light around his head. And, while He did that, He said to him:

“My son, the task that I have given you is great; and, so, it is necessary that I give you much light to make you clearly understand what I have revealed—because the more clearly the truth is explained, the more powerful its effects. Although in themselves these truths are perfectly clear—because that which concerns My Will is light that comes down from Heaven (and this light does not confuse and blind the mind’s eye but has the power to strengthen and clarify man’s intellect to make it understand and love this knowledge)—It casts into the depths of the soul the principle of its origin, the true purpose for which it was created: The order between creature and Creator. All of My sayings, revelations, and pearls of knowledge about My Supreme Will are so many brush-strokes to restore the soul to the likeness of her Creator.

“All that I have said about My Will is simply to prepare the way, to form the army, to assemble the chosen people, to prepare the royal palace, to ready the land where the Kingdom of My Will must be established and where My Will shall rule and reign. That is why the duty that I am entrusting to you is great. I will guide you; I will be near you to see to it that all is done according to My Will.”