



## *Essential Evangelization*

### ST. MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

This Tuesday, Oct 5, we celebrate the feast day of a great modern saint, mystic and champion of God's mercy, St. Faustina. She was born Helena Kowalska on August 25, 1905, in Glogowiec, Poland, the third of ten children to a poor Polish family. After receiving only three years of formal education, she worked as a cook, gardener and porter to support her family until the age of 20, when she felt the call of God to be a nun.

Beginning in 1931, Sister Faustina received revelations and personal vision visits from Jesus and Mary and was also given a terrifying window into hell. She recorded them all in a diary that became a widely acclaimed sacred book, *The Divine Mercy in My Soul*. Her entire life became an imitation of Christ's life and sacrifice, including battles with tuberculosis. She died in 1938 in Krakow. The archbishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyla, who later became the great Pope John Paul II, became devoted to her work and her lovely spirit, and in 1965 the case of her sainthood was opened. St. Faustina became the instrument of God in establishing the Church's Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter. Connected to this relatively new feast is the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a prayer of 55 beads, or Novena of mercy for our sins to be prayed for ten days from Good Friday until the Second Sunday of Easter. Others have connected with the Divine Mercy prayer that is traditionally prayed at 3:00 PM each Friday to commemorate God's love for us and death on the cross and great mercy for all sinners. Devotion to God's Mercy runs parallel to the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Divine Mercy symbol image of red and white rays emanating from Jesus' heart are symbolic of the blood and water poured out for our salvation. More information can be found at [www.thedivinemercy.org](http://www.thedivinemercy.org).

Several miracles of healing have been attributed to St. Faustina. It is also very interesting to note that she actually also had a vision of her canonization to sainthood in 2000 by Pope John Paul some 65 years earlier!

"I pray unceasingly that God may have mercy on us  
and on the whole world."

Pope John Paul II quoting a portion of the Divine Mercy Chaplet  
This is one of a series of articles  
on *Evangelization from the*  
*Evangelization Committee*