

REFLECTION

The Monthly Reflection will have a Theme which will be developed in the materials offered to you for your reflection and prayer. If you are able to gather with others then hopefully a fruitful discussion will arise from the meditations. The Reflections can be accessed in the following ways:

1. Each month the Reflection will be posted on the web-site:
www.DivineMercyCongressNZ.com
2. If you want it e-mailed to you please contact:
fr_roy@clear.net.nz
3. If you want a mail out please send us your postal address to:
Divine Mercy Congress Oceania 2016
PO Box 46-140, Herne Bay, Auckland 1011, NZ or
PO Box 20266, Bishopdale, Christchurch 8543, NZ

PRAYER

We encourage you to prayer daily the Prayer for the Congress as well as the Divine Mercy Chaplet remembering the promise of Jesus to St.Fustina "I please Me to grant everything they ask of Me by saying the chaplet." [1541]. Let us prayer for Oceania, that it will be a Witness to Divine Mercy to the whole world.

PRAYER FOR CONGRESS 2016

Preparation Reflections for



 **Divine Mercy Congress Oceania**
Auckland NZ February 20-28 2016

"Walk in Love and Mercy"

Oceania Apostolic Congress On Mercy (OACOM)

www.DivineMercyCongressNZ.com

OVERVIEW

Greetings to all who are looking forward to the **Divine Mercy Congress** to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, in 2016 from 20th until 28th February. Its official title is *Oceania Apostolic Congress on Mercy*; a title based on the first *World Apostolic Congress on Mercy* convoked by Pope Benedict XVI held in Rome in 2008. This was followed by two World Congresses held, the first, in Krakow, Poland in 2011 and then in Bogota, Colombia in 2014. In between the World Congresses, Regional Congresses have been held on a regular basis. New Zealand is in the Oceania Region which held Congresses hosted by His Grace Archbishop Alapati L. Mataeliga DD in Samoa in 2009 and 2013. Most Reverend Patrick Dunn DD, Bishop of Auckland has agreed to host the next Oceania Congress in 2016.

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Each of the World and Regional Congresses have been preceded by a period of reflection aimed at helping us to better prepared our hearts and minds for the Congress event. We want to offer you a 9 Months of reflections based on Pope Benedict XVIth program of mercy which is printed below:

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1. **BAPTISM:** We have each received a gift of Divine Mercy through our Baptism. The spiritual reality is that God in His great mercy has saved us through the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. In face, God's mercy is at the heart of the Gospel and our sacramental life as Catholics.
2. **JESUS I TRUST IN YOU:** Growing daily in trust in God is our foundational response to His great mercy towards us. It is our love, hope, and faith put into action.
3. **WITNESSES OF MERCY:** We are called to cultivate a trustworthy hope in God's mercy. Thus, we can go forth in great confidence as "witnesses of God's mercy, a source of hope for every person and for the whole world."

4. **INTERCESSION:** God's mercy is intended for all sinners. It is not our place to judge the souls of particular sinners. We are called to plead God's mercy for them, praying that they would receive the grace of repentance.
5. **SERVICE:** Like the heart of the Good Samaritan, our hearts should be disposed toward serving our neighbour in need. Such a disposition of the heart is best fostered by a prayerful and sacramental life.
6. **ATONEMENT:** Whenever we are sick or suffer for any reason, we are called to trust in God's mercy and join our sufferings to those of Christ on the Cross. We should encourage the sick and suffering in our midst to do likewise.
7. **WORKS OF MERCY:** We are encouraged to pray for God's mercy for the dying and for the faithful departed. Such prayer is a powerful spiritual work of mercy for our brothers and sisters in need. Pope Benedict said: "*Our lives are profoundly linked, one to the other, and the good and bad that each of us does always affects others too. Hence, the prayer of a pilgrim soul in the world can help another soul that is being purified after death. This is why the Church invites us to pray today for our beloved deceased and pause at their tombs in the cemeteries.*" [November 2, 2008 *Angelus* Message] In the case of the dying, many of the faithful pray the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy at the bedside of the dying person. [cf *Diary of St. Faustina* 811 and 1541].
8. **YOUTH WITNESSES:** Our youth are invited to an encounter with the merciful Jesus in and through the Church. As they receive mercy from Jesus, they are called to go forth into the world as young men and women of mercy. We should encourage them in this call.
9. **"WALK IN LOVE AND MERCY":** Our witness to God's mercy can be more effective if we focus our energy upon a particular initiative or project. Praying and trusting in the Lord will be important in pursuing such an initiative.

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