

Divine Mercy Image "Gaze of Mercy"

(Flynn, pp 106~109)

The final portion of the Divine Image we now turn to examine is Christ's *Gaze of Mercy*

According to the author, (Flynn), "the most difficult task for the artist was to capture the gentle, loving expression that Faustina saw on Christ's face when he appeared to her." Christ instructed her to paint

"My gaze from this image is like My gaze from the Cross." (Diary 326) St Faustina insisted the artist paint an expression that Christ's face be loving and merciful; His eyes be "directed somewhat downward" so as to not "bore into" the view and the gaze should be merciful "as from the cross."

However, the artist never could capture the image to Faustina's liking. She was so frustrated that in crying to the Lord, "Who will paint You as beautiful as You are?" He replied, "Not in the beauty of the color, not of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in My Grace." (Diary 313)

Take a moment to contemplate what Jesus is saying here... "We need to ask for the grace to look beyond the painted image and see the actual face of Christ...to see His loving gaze."

> We are called to quiet ourselves To meditate To contemplate To experience Jesus' **GAZE of MERCY**

When Pope Francis opened up the Jubilee Year of Mercy, he wrote that Jesus "is the face of the Father's mercy...For all eternity man will always be under the merciful gaze of the Father." (Face of Mercy #1, 7)