



**Divine Mercy Image
The hands tell the story...**

(Flynn, pp 75-83)

Look carefully at the right hand...

Do you see how it's forming a fist? ...No?

Look again

Do you see how it's cupped, held off to the side,
as if He's about to slap you?...No?

Look again

Can you see how the fingers might be holding a pencil,
as if He's writing down and keeping track of all your transgressions? ...No?

Of course not

So, then what is His right hand doing? Hand is raised in a “**gesture of blessing**”

A “blessing” is defined as “a divine and life-giving action”

Who's doing the blessing...

The ultimate source of divine blessing is The Father – Jesus is showing us what the Father does *all the time*. All blessings come from the Father who, through Jesus pours the Holy Spirit into our hearts.

Who's the Holy Spirit... *The Lord, the giver of life*

“From the beginning until the end of time the whole of God's work is a *blessing...one vast divine blessing.*” This is God's whole work and he's doing it *all the time*.

Consider now another important truth within this image...note the color of Jesus garment. Sr.

Faustina was insistent that Jesus be dressed in a white garment – the white garment of the priesthood. Jesus, the one great High Priest – but others share in that one priesthood of Christ.

As Christ's hand is raised in blessing,

it follows then that the first function of a priest is also to bless.

In our Catholic tradition, the priest acts *in persona Christi*...The Father, who is perpetually blessing us in Christ, continues to extend that blessing through the priest...*and now you*

know why we call each priest, “Father.”

Next week, we'll discover what Jesus' left hand is inviting us to.

Read more about it
RESOURCES

'The 7 Secrets of Divine Mercy,' Vinny Flynn, Ignatius Press, 2015

'Divine Mercy in My Soul. The Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska,' Marian Press

The Face of Mercy, Bull of Indication of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (Pope Francis)

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html

DIVINE MERCY website: <http://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/johnpaul/encyclical2.php>

The Mercy of God – Pope John Paul II encyclical letter found at

http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30111980_dives-in-misericordia.html