



Family Formation Home Lesson

Divine Mercy Sunday

Celebrated the First Sunday After Easter

2nd Sunday of Easter

Week of March 30, 2008

MEMORIZE:

Prayer From The Chaplet of Divine Mercy (See inside front cover.)

MONTH OUTLINE:

Lesson 1: Reconciliation

Lesson 2: Triduum and Easter

Lesson 3: Divine Mercy Sunday

FOCUS:

To realize the depths of God's mercy for all of us. The mercy of God is a divine gift.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

pencils, crayons, scissors, stapler, CD player

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Light a candle and pray: Eternal God, in Whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible; look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is love and mercy itself.

HEY DAD:

There are two special ways in which you can help with this lesson: lead your family in the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and help your saints assemble their "Big Mercy" booklets.



On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II announced the canonization of Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska and, soon after, decreed that, *"throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday."* The primary celebration on this day is, as always, the Second Sunday of Easter, but within that, today's reading from the book of John tells us of the institution of the sacrament of Reconciliation. How appropriate it is that we should celebrate God's abundant mercy on this day!



In an address from the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Poland on June 7, 1997, Pope John Paul II gave the following reflections on this devotion to Divine Mercy: *"There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy—that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above His weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God."*

"In this place we become particularly aware of this. From here, in fact, went out the Message of Divine Mercy that Christ Himself chose to pass on to our generation through Faustina. And it is a message that is clear and understandable for everyone. Anyone can come here, look at this image of the merciful Jesus, His Heart radiating grace, and hear in the depths of his own soul what Faustina heard: 'Fear nothing. I am with you always.' (from her diary, 586)

"The Church re-reads the message of mercy in order to bring with greater effectiveness to this generation at the end of the millenium, and to future generations, the light of hope."

"At no time and in no historical period—especially at a moment as critical as our own—can the Church forget the prayer that is a cry for the mercy of God amid the many forms of evil which weigh upon humanity and threaten it. 'The more the human conscience succumbs to secularization, loses its sense of the very meaning of the word "mercy," moves away from God, and distances itself from the mystery of mercy, the more the Church has the right and the duty to appeal to the God of mercy with loud cries.'

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

Quiz Answers

Younger Saints

1. b
2. Sister Faustina Kowalska
3. See below.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary.
8. Answers will vary.

Older Saints

1. b
2. Jesus promises His mercy to all who ask sincerely for forgiveness.
3. a
4. See below.
5. C S
S S
C C
C S
C S
C C
S S

FAMILY FORMATION

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MISSION:

Family Formation is designed to help parents respond to the Church's call to be "the first and foremost educators of their children."* It is our purpose to aid families as they grow in their love and knowledge of the Catholic faith.

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Scripture quotations are from the Saint Joseph Edition of the New American Bible unless otherwise noted.

*Gravissimum Educationis, 3

Prayer From The Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Eternal Father,
I offer You the Body and Blood,
Soul and Divinity
of Your dearly beloved Son,
Our Lord, Jesus Christ,
in atonement for our sins
and those of the whole world.

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us
and on the whole world.

NOTE: Grades 4, 5, and 6 should
memorize the entire prayer.

Grades Kindergarten, 1, and 3 should be able to recite
the second paragraph, and they are invited
to memorize the whole prayer as well.

Nihil Obstat: Rev. Michael Byron
Censor Librorum

Imprimatur: † Most Rev. Harry J. Flynn
Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis
January 23, 2007

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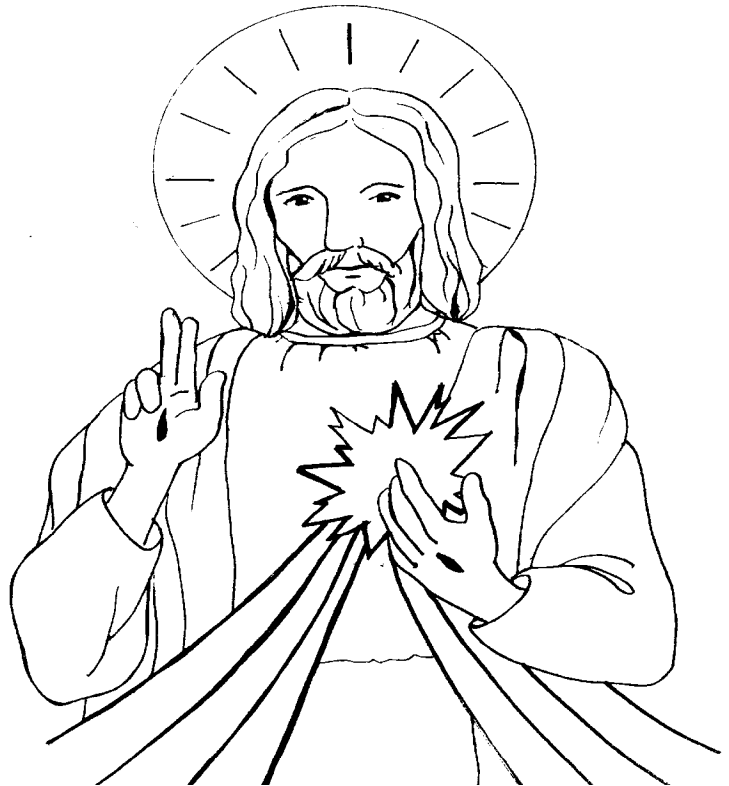
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

SUNDAY CONNECTION: On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 30, 2000, Sister Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament was canonized in Rome by Pope John Paul II. She thus became the first saint of the Jubilee Year, ushering in the third millennium.

In 1931, a young Polish nun named Sister Faustina Kowalaska saw a vision of Jesus. Jesus stood before her with white rays streaming from His heart. He told Sister Faustina to have an artist paint a picture of Him just as she saw Him. Underneath the picture, He instructed her to have the artist write, "Jesus, I Trust in You!"

Sister Faustina was then told to write down everything Jesus would tell her of His mercy. She was to keep a diary so others would come to know and trust in Him. Jesus said that His mercy was available to even the greatest of sinners.

Jesus also promised several things to Sister Faustina. He said that if people would follow His special instructions, they would receive His great mercy.



Jesus I Trust in You!

In her diary, *Divine Mercy In My Soul*, Sister Faustina reveals that the mercy of Jesus is unlimited and available to even the greatest sinners. These are some of the revelations Jesus told her to write:

The Feast of Mercy - The Sunday after Easter:

*"On that day the very depths
of My tender mercy are open."*

Diary, 699

The Hour of Great Mercy:

For those who immerse themselves in the Passion of Jesus Christ at the 3 o'clock hour,

"I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion."

Diary, 1320

The Chaplet of Mercy:

Jesus said,

"Through the chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for will be compatible with My will."

Diary, 1731

The Sacraments of Mercy:

*"The soul that will go to Confession
and receive Holy Communion
(for the Feast of Divine mercy)
shall obtain complete forgiveness
of sins and punishment."*

Diary, 699

Two of the key points of Divine Mercy are *trust* and *mercy*. We are asked by the Lord to *trust* Him in all things, and if we approach Him with a sincere heart, He will pour out His unlimited *mercy* on us.

The ABC's of Mercy

A

sk for His mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly.

B

e merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others.

C

omplete trust. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust.



BE MERCIFUL!

God expects us to let His mercy flow through us to others. Jesus told Sister Faustina:

*"I demand from you deeds of mercy,
which are to arise out of love for Me.
You are to show mercy to your neighbors
always and everywhere."*

Diary, 742

Jesus tells us, *"You must not shrink from this (showing mercy) or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it. I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first — by deed; the second — by word; the third — by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me."* *Diary, 742 (emphasis added)*

*"Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy."*

Matthew 5:7

The Catholic Church teaches us to be merciful in many ways. It is important that we practice the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy. See if your family can fill in the blanks to complete each sentence:

The Corporal Works of Mercy

based upon Matthew 25:31-46

imprisoned homeless thirsty
 visit hungry bury
 clothe

1. Feed the _____ .
2. Give drink to the _____ .
3. _____ the naked.
4. _____ the sick.
5. Shelter the _____ .
6. Visit the _____ .
7. _____ the dead.



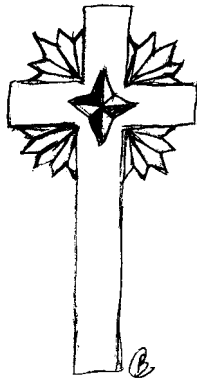
The Spiritual Works of Mercy

instruct doubtful admonish
 forgive pray (correct)
 comfort patiently



1. _____ the ignorant.
2. Counsel the _____ .
3. _____ the sorrowful.
4. Bear wrongs _____ .
5. _____ all injuries.
6. _____ for the living and the dead.
7. _____ the sinner.

One night, Sister Faustina had a vision. She saw the Angel of Chastisement with his sword drawn. The angel was ready to strike a terrible blow to the earth. Sister Faustina was horrified! Then a prayer came to her:



"Eternal Father,
I offer You the Body and Blood,
Soul and Divinity
of Your dearly beloved Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
in atonement for our sins
and those of the whole world."

Diary, 476

When Sister Faustina prayed this prayer over and over, the Angel of Chastisement withdrew the sword and went away. The prayer made a difference! Try as a family to memorize this prayer, taking it line by line. Say this prayer, trusting God to always answer you according to His holy will.

- ♦ Eternal Father: *(the one, true God, Who was, Who is, and Who is to come)*
- ♦ I offer You: *(I present as a sacrifice)*
- ♦ The Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ: *(the awesome, powerful, and selfless love shown by God's Son as He handed Himself over to be crucified)*
- ♦ In atonement for our sins: *(in payment for all the ways we have done things that are not pleasing to God)*
- ♦ And those of the whole world: *(Jesus took upon His shoulders all the sins of humanity so we would be made right with God once more.)*

✂ FAMILIY
ACTIVITY

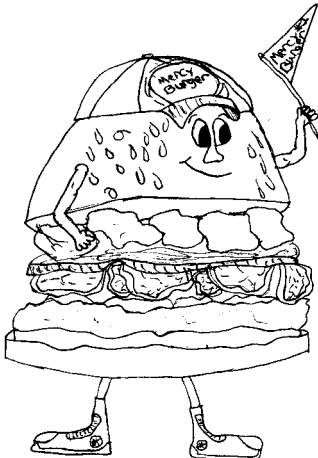
Included with this lesson is an audio containing a brief teaching of the history of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and a recording of the Chaplet prayer with which your family can pray along.

Jesus wants us to **FEAST** at the fount of His mercy!

The heavenly banquet awaits us! Jesus has prepared a place especially for you and me. Our goal as saints is to have a seat at the head of the table. When we fall short of this goal, Jesus welcomes us back with the grace of His mercy. He tells us:

"Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy."

Diary, 699



The Feast of Divine Mercy is celebrated the Sunday after Easter. Jesus tells us:

"On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy."

Diary, 699

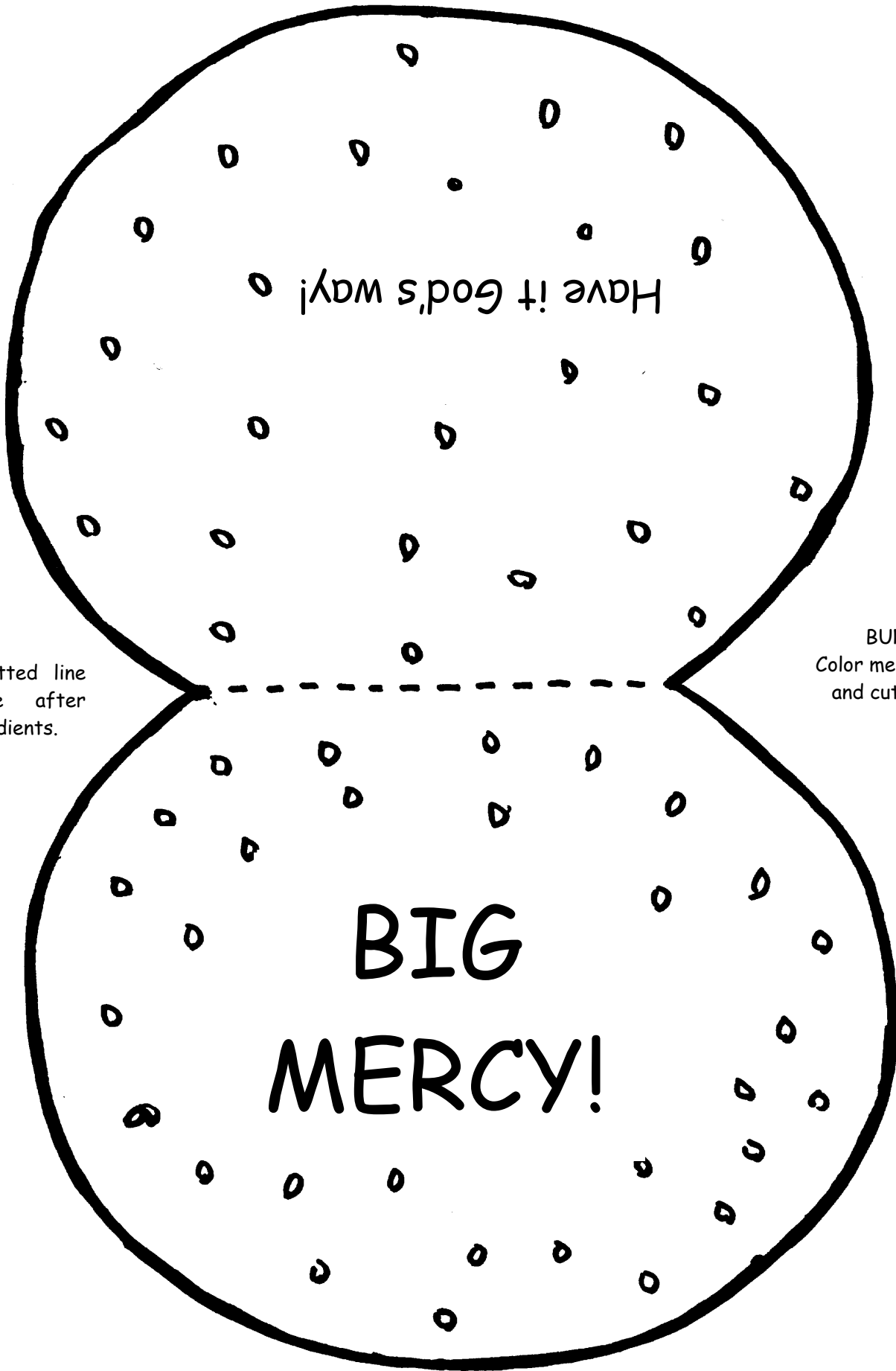
All of these graces and promises are available to everyone who calls on the mercy of Jesus with great sincerity and trust! He will fill us to the top with His grace and mercy!

(For more on grace, see CCC 1996.)

Like the *richest foods*,
Jesus wants us to *feast*
at the fount of His mercy.
When we ask sincerely
for forgiveness,
Jesus will *fill us up* with His grace.
It's a *whopper* of a deal!

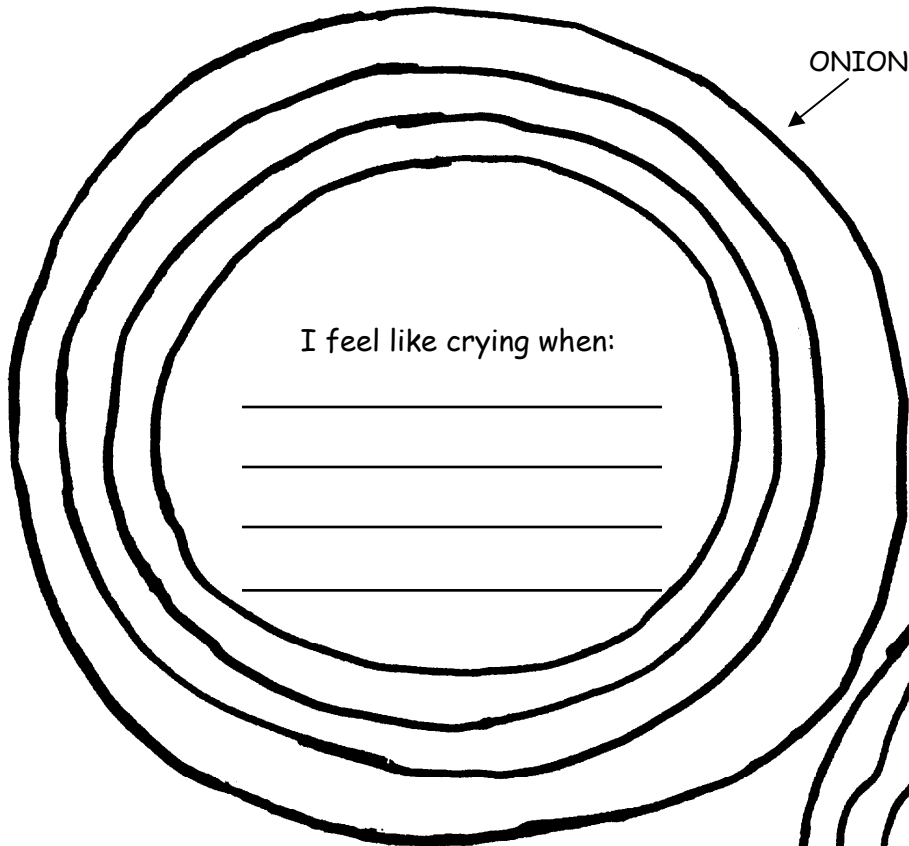


BIG MERCY BURGER ACTIVITY: Fill in the blanks on the burger "ingredients" on the following pages. Color them as indicated, and cut them out. Layer all ingredients together to build a burger, and staple near the fold.



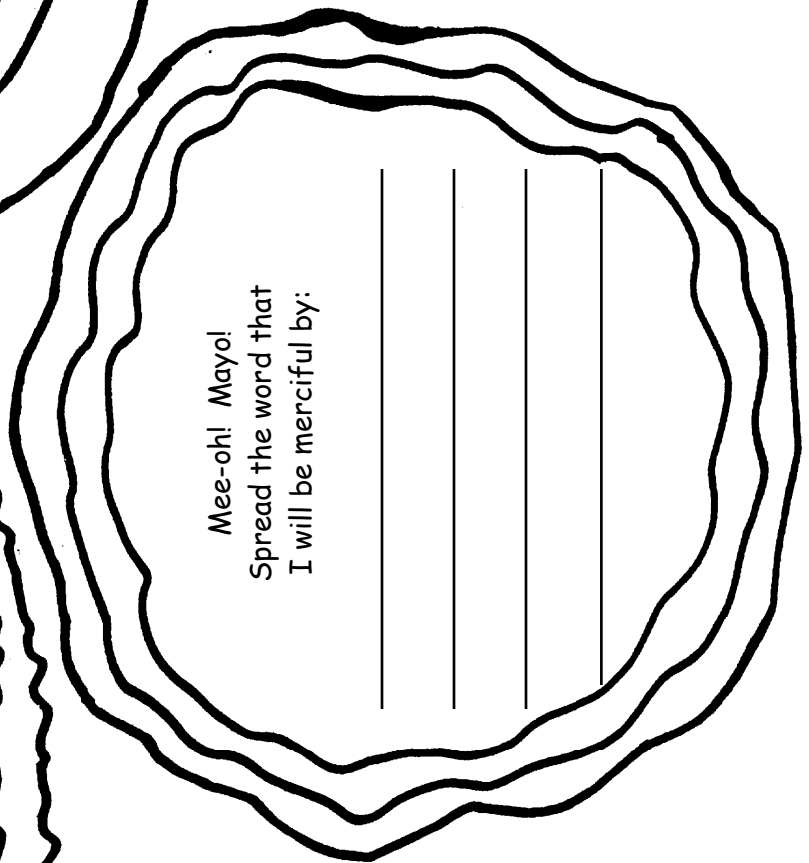
Fold on dotted line
and staple after
adding ingredients.

BUN:
Color me brown
and cut out.

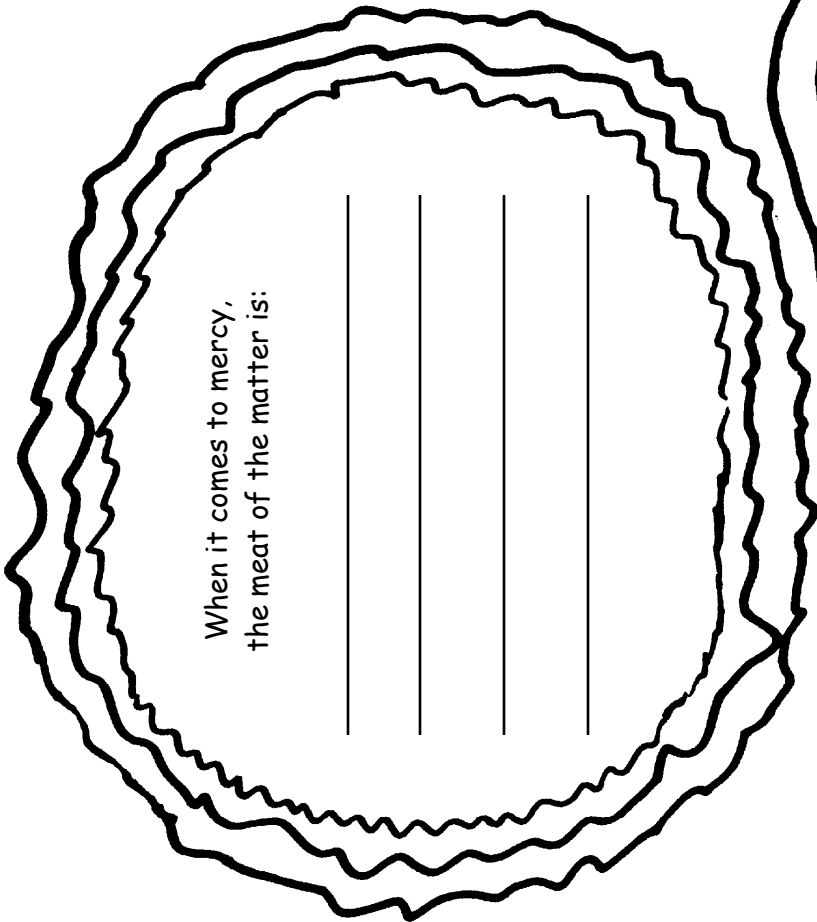


ONION

I feel like crying when:

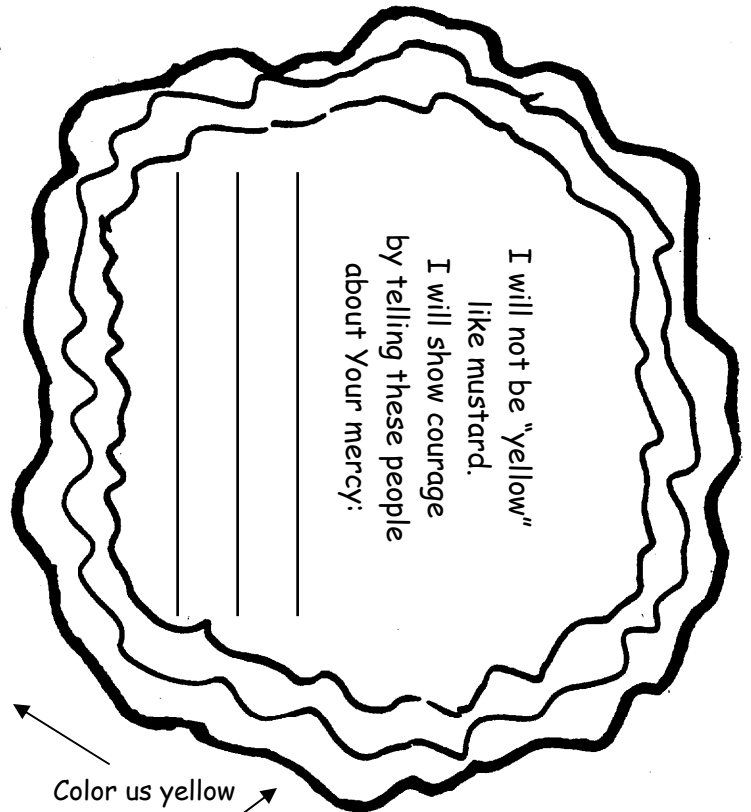


Mee-oh! Mayo!
Spread the word that
I will be merciful by:

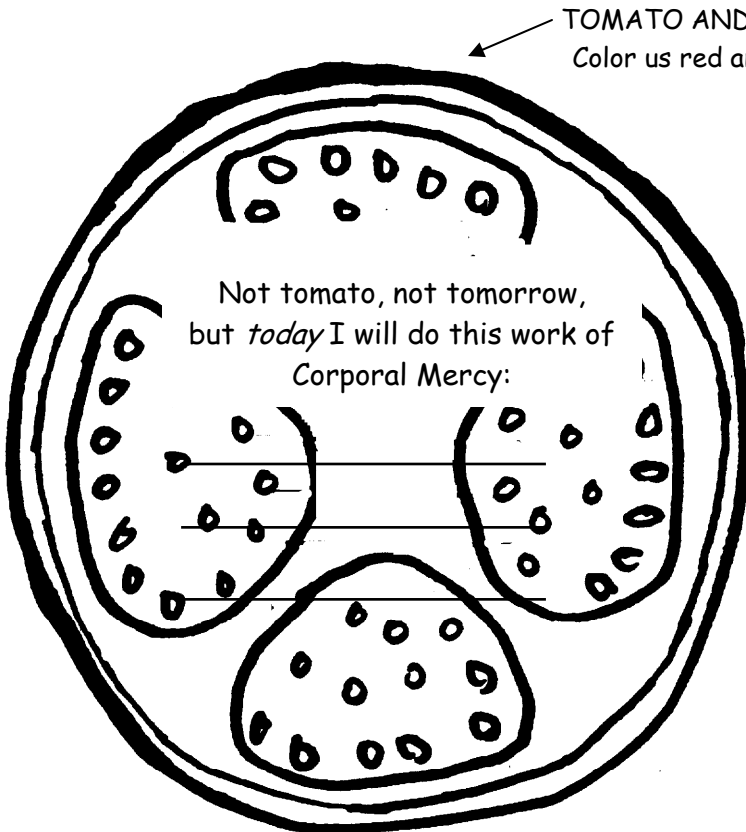


When it comes to mercy,
the meat of the matter is:

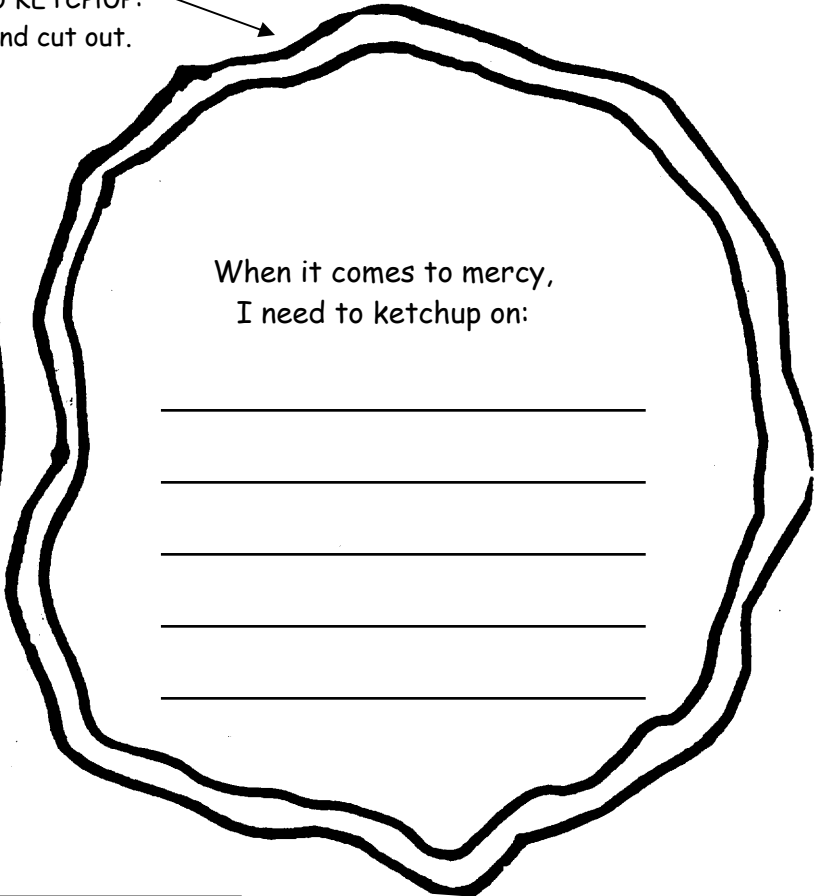
MEAT:
Color me brown
and cut out.

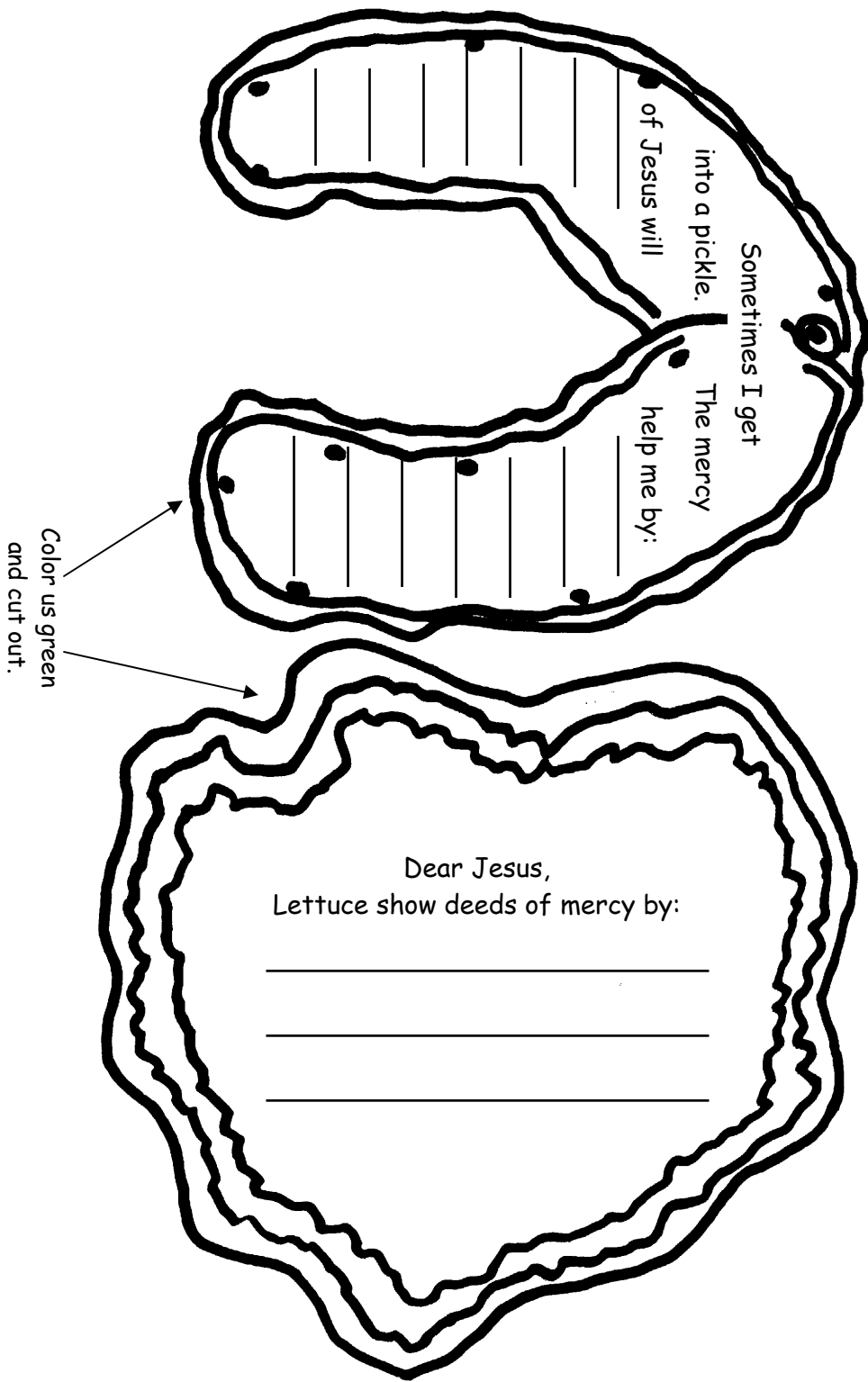


Color us yellow and cut out.



TOMATO AND KETCHUP:
Color us red and cut out.





What Did You Learn About Divine Mercy?

for younger saints

1. Jesus has given us three ways to exercise mercy toward others.
What are they?
 - a. by faith, hope, and charity
 - b. by deed, word, and prayer
 - c. by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
2. Name the nun who had a vision of Jesus that was the beginning of the devotion to the divine mercy of Jesus.
3. Recite your memory verse.
4. What is one way that you can feed the hungry?
5. What is one way that you can forgive those who do you harm?
6. What is one way that you can clothe the naked?
7. What is one way that you can counsel those who need advice?
8. What is one way that you can be patient with others?

What Did You Learn About Divine Mercy?

for older saints

1. Jesus has given us three ways to exercise mercy toward others.
What are they?
 - a. by faith, hope, and charity
 - b. by deed, word, and prayer
 - c. by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
2. To whom does Jesus promise His mercy?
3. Divine Mercy Sunday is always celebrated
 - a. the first Sunday after Easter.
 - b. on Saint Patrick's day.
 - c. the week before Pentecost.
4. Recite your memory verse.
5. Write the letter "C" on the line next to the Corporal Works of Mercy and the letter "S" next to the Spiritual Works of Mercy.

_____ Feed the hungry.

_____ Instruct the ignorant.

_____ Counsel the doubtful.

_____ Forgive all injuries.

_____ Give drink to the thirsty.

_____ Clothe the naked.

_____ Visit the sick.

_____ Comfort the sorrowful.

_____ Shelter the homeless.

_____ Bear wrongs patiently.

_____ Visit the imprisoned.

_____ Bury the dead.

_____ Pray for the living and the dead.

_____ Admonish the sinner.