

PRESENTATION PARISH DIVINE MERCY WORKSHOP MARCH 31, 2007

The Workshop on Divine Mercy and Trust focused on the third part of the ABC's of mercy; **C**omplete trust in God's Mercy. **A**sking for mercy and **B**eing merciful are easily identifiable activities, however, completely trusting in God is a somewhat abstract concept and difficult to measure.

The purpose of the workshop was to look at human trust that we place in things and in people and how it grows and then to examine how we might approach divine trust in God so that it too could grow into complete trust.

A blindfolded volunteer demonstrated human trust by navigating an obstacle course through the church first on his own and then with assistance. The volunteer used what senses he had left, hearing, feeling and even using his memory. Next, a relative stranger took him by the arm and directed him through the maze step by step.

Finally, his spouse easily guided him through the course effortlessly. The obvious lesson is that with help, we learn to trust and the best help is from someone we trust implicitly. Now substitute Jesus as our helper and we have a way to transition from human trust to divine trust.

The conclusion is that we need to allow Jesus to come along side us to guide us and to completely trust in Him. Still, the question is – How? The answers were not profound but familiar and included; prayer, sacrifice, holiness, and the sacraments. If we are praying now, pray more; if we are suffering, join that suffering to Christ's; continuously work at eliminating all sin, even venial sin; receive with an open and sincere heart the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist; and finally to all this, add a large dash of perseverance. St Faustina says if we open the door to our heart even just a little, God will do the rest!

A second tier of activities to practice mercy and grow in trust where we get outside ourselves are the Spiritual and Corporal works of mercy. This area was left for another workshop. Thank you for all who attended and participated.

