

WHO ARE THE LUKEWARM?

To understand who are the souls designated for this day, and who, in the Diary of St. Faustina, are called lukewarm, but are also compared to ice and to corpses, on one occasion, Our Savior defined them this way:

"There are souls who thwart My efforts (1682)... souls without love or devotion, souls full of egoism and selfishness, proud and arrogant souls full of deceit and hypocrisy... lukewarm souls who have hardly enough warmth to keep themselves alive. My Heart cannot bear it. All My graces that I pour down on them daily, flow off them as off rock. I cannot bear them because they are neither good nor bad (1702).

In the book of Revelations, 3: 15-16. God tells us:

"I know you well. You are neither hot nor cold; I wish that you were one or the other! But because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold (good nor bad), I will vomit you out of my mouth.

"I continually discipline and punish everyone I love, so I must punish you, until you turn from your indifference and become enthusiastic about the things of God."

To Sr. Josepha Menendez, who requested a short prayer from Jesus that would please Him very much, He told her to pray the following short ejaculation often: **(Pray it)**

"Oh, my Beloved. Who is also my God,
make my heart burn with a flame of pure love for Thee."

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LUKEWARMNESS and MERCY



... *"Today bring to Me souls who have become lukewarm,*

and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy.

These souls wound My Heart most painfully..."

LUKEWARMNESS AND MERCY

by Rosalie Turton

We do not realize how Jesus loathes lukewarmness, and how seriously it offends God and wounds His tender heart.

THIS CUP

Long ago, I read the book *Bethlehem* by the brilliant convert to Catholicism, Fr. Frederick William Faber, and I was both surprised and impressed by his statement, that Jesus was *not* referring to His scourging and crucifixion, when He pleaded with the Father, "Let *this cup* pass from Me." He was asking for something entirely different, that most of us do not even suspect.

Jesus *wanted* to endure the scourging and crucifixion, because He knew that *it was the required recompense for the redemption of mankind*. He loved mankind *because* of the Father's love for mankind, and Christ's great love for the Father, made His greatest pleasure *doing the Father's will*.

When Peter said, referring to the crucifixion, "This will not happen to You," Jesus responded, "Get the behind me, Satan!"

He came for the express purpose of suffering and of dying for us, because He knew that it was the *only* way to save us. His love for us, and our need of reparation to the Infinite and Divine nature of God, *required* nothing less!

So, then, we ponder the answer to the almost unfathomable question: ...what did Jesus mean, when He said to the Father, "Let *this cup* pass from Me?" If it was not the horrible physical pains which He was about to endure, and He knew well what they would be, what then was the provocation for this horrific mental anguish that even caused Him to *sweat blood*?

WHAT CUP was he talking about? What was the cause of this intense pain, which He felt even more severely than any of the physical torments that He was about to endure? What provoked this plea for a relief of pain that overrode the excruciating torments of the Crucifixion? What then caused His *most unbearable* pain?

Fr. Faber tells us that this MOST intense suffering of Jesus was caused, because (even after He had *paid the price of their offenses in full*) some souls *would still refuse* to accept His payment to God, and *would be lost*. That is *THIS CUP*.

Perhaps it was the first and only time that the Father would choose to say "No" to a request from Jesus. Sinners *will remain free* to accept or reject the sacrifice of Jesus. That so many are lukewarm, *on the fence*, so to speak, is the cause of Jesus' anguish. "They have free will, and it will not be taken away from them." ... Instead, the Father sent an angel to strengthen Him.

DIVINE MERCY AND THE LUKEWARM

In the nine day Divine Mercy Novena, it is left to *the last day, the ninth day, the finale, the summit of need, the greatest resister...* those who are the lukewarm. Jesus says to St. Faustina:

"Today bring to Me souls who have become lukewarm, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. These souls wound My Heart *most painfully*. My soul suffered the *most dreadful loathing* in the Garden of Olives because of lukewarm souls. *They were the reason* I cried out, 'Father, take this cup away from Me, if it be Your will.' For them, *the last hope of salvation* is to run to My mercy."

Following is the prayer told to us by Jesus through St. Faustina in response to His request:

"Most compassionate Jesus, You are Compassion Itself. I bring lukewarm souls into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart. In this fire of Your pure love, let these tepid souls, who, like corpses, filled You with such deep loathing, be once again set aflame.

"Oh, Most Compassionate Jesus, exercise the omnipotence of Your mercy and draw them into the very ardor of Your love, and bestow upon them the gift of holy love, for nothing is beyond Your power.

"Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon lukewarm souls who are nonetheless enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Father of Mercy, I beg You, by the bitter Passion of Your Son and by His three-hour agony on the Cross, let them, too, Glorify the abyss of Your mercy. Amen."