

A Reflection on Colossians 3:1-17 and an excerpt from a
Sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop
By Peggy Brechtel

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, Paul tells us "Be intent on things above rather than on things of earth." We are so earthbound! Even when we strive to focus on Christ and the things of heaven we become easily distracted by the cares of the world.

St. Catherine of Sienna, in her Dialogue, says "A soul rises up, restless with tremendous desire for God's honor and the salvation of souls. She has for some time exercised herself in virtue and has become accustomed to dwelling in the cell of self-knowledge in order to know better God's goodness toward her, since upon knowledge follows love. And loving she seeks to pursue truth and clothe herself in it."

Both Catherine and St. Faustina learned how to maintain interior prayer in all circumstances.

We need to ask the Holy Spirit to teach how to do this and to give us the grace to accomplish this!

We have to put to death whatever in our nature is rooted in earth, namely all the seven deadly sins. We must put on a new man and clothe ourselves with heartfelt mercy. We should know the corporal and spiritual works of mercy by heart and strive to practice them. Jesus did not just ask for but demanded works of mercy from us.

St. Augustine says, " You have all been clothed with Christ by your baptism in him." On April 6th I celebrated my baptism. I was baptized at 10 days old 77 years ago. Renee celebrated her baptism April 4. This baptism gives us the hope of immortality, since, as St Augustine says, "You have been buried with Christ by baptism into death in order that, as Christ has risen from the dead, you also may walk in newness of life."

Today we celebrate a most beautiful feast, the Feast of Divine Mercy. This is not just another devotion but comes with miraculous graces of mercy.

Jesus said to Faustina "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. 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. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate my love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy." (Taken from Faustina's Diary, pages 285-286)