

**John Paul II**

# **The Church Rejoices and Expresses Gratitude for the Actions of God**

**Homily pronounced during the beatification  
of Fr. Stanisław of Kazimierz, Fr. Lodovico of Casoria,  
Mother Paula Montal Fornés, Mother Angela Truszkowska  
and Sister Faustina Kowalska on 18 April 1993**

1. *“O praise the Lord. It is good to give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures for ever.”* (Ps 118 [117], 1).

The grateful psalm fills the entire paschal octave. The Church adores the Lord with gratefulness for the gift of Christ’s Salvation: for the gift of the new and eternal life revealed in the Resurrect. The Church unanimously adores and thanks for the boundless love for man and the world, which was made visible in Him.

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who (...) gave us new birth into a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!”* (1 Peter 1,3). He gave us new birth *“in his great mercy.”* God and Father of Christ crucified and resurrect: *dives in misericordia.*

The Church has lived with this awareness since the early days. On the day of the paschal thanksgiving, first disciples and followers gathered, breaking the bread in private houses (cf. Acts 2, 46) –therefore holding the Eucharist. In the same spirit, the Apostolic Church accepted catechumens, thus increasing the number of people praising God, adoring Him *“rich in mercy”* (cf. Ephesians 2, 4), expressing gratitude for love revealed in Christ.

2. Today the same Church, born *“into a living hope,”* thanks for *“the inheritance to which we are born [which] is one that nothing can destroy or spoil or wither [and which] is kept for [us] in heaven.”* (cf. 1 Peter 1, 4). In the year 2000, Christians express their Easter joy through these sons and daughters who particularly confirm the Divine inheritance awaiting us in heaven. Here are their names:

Lodovico of Casoria  
Paula Montal Fornés of St. Joseph Kalasanty  
Stanisław of Kazimierz  
Angela Truszkowska  
Faustina Kowalska.

**3.** I hail you, Blessed Lodovico of Casoria, outstanding representative of the Franciscans, and the devoted witness to the Divine love.

We are moved by the words of your *Will*: “*The Lord called me with the mild love, and with His boundless mercy, He led me through the paths of my life.*” The power of this love convinced you, outstanding scientist and lecturer, to sacrifice for the poor: sick priests, African immigrants, the dumb, the blind, the old and orphans.

Blessed Lodovico, great son of the Neapolitan Church, you have adopted the charisma of St. Francis of Assisi, and lived with it in the society of your age, at the South of Italy of the previous century, attempting to prevent the most serious forms of poverty. You participated in the life of your contemporary with Christian compassion, and experienced their daily tragedies. The scope of your apostolate seems so incredible that we immediately ask: how did you manage to cover so many areas of human poverty, showing such great “*imagination*” in action for the good of people? And again the answer is found in your own words: “*Love of Christ hurt my heart*” (The Will).

We ask you to teach us how to live for others and how to build true church communities, flourishing with love, joy, and hope making us act. “*You have the poor among you always*” (cf. Matthew 26, 11). Blessed Lodovico, help us find them and love them with the same fire which made such great things in you.

**4.** The new Blessed Paula Montal of St. Joseph Kalasanty, all her life was the apostle of the cultural, personal and Christian development of women. With complete subjection to God’s will, and with “*forty reals in her pocket*”, as the history of her life says, she opened the first school for girls, in order to teach them the love of God, and show the dignity of woman as the future mother of the family. “*I want to save families,*” she insisted. For that purpose, she founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary of Christian Schools, living the spirituality of St. Joseph Kalasanty, and taking the fourth vow – of complete devotion to education.

The Charisma of the Blessed Paula Montal lives in you, dear sisters of Christian Schools, and her appreciation in the altars today is an urgent calling, addressed to us by Christ, in order for you as consecrated people to renew your fruitful service for the benefit of the dignity of woman and family. May the Lord cause, through her intercession, that the educational activity of the Church among children and youth spread dynamically, and may it enliven the Christian roots of the noble Spanish nation, represented here by the large group of bishops, authorities, priests and monks – especially the Pijarzy Order – nuns, and many followers, whom I hereby give my best regards.

**5.** I hail you, Mother Maria Angela Truszkowska, mother of the large Felician family. You were a witness to the hard times of our nation and the Church, which had its mission on that nation. Your name and calling is related to the person

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of blessed Honorat Koźmiński, great apostle of concealed congregations which renewed the life of the suffering society, and brought back the hope for resurrection.

Today I am making a pilgrimage to your relics in my beloved Cracow, where the Felician family grew, and from where it spread over the ocean in order to serve new generations of emigrants and Americans.

Christ led Mother Angela through an exceptional path, giving her a special share in the mystery of His cross. He carved her soul with pain, which she accepted with faith and heroic subjection to His will: in seclusion and loneliness, in long-lasting and painful illness, in the darkness of her soul.

Her greatest desire was to become the “*flame of love.*” And she always understood love as an unconditional gift of herself. “*To love means to give. To give all that love requires. To give it quickly, without remorse, and with a desire to be required to give more.*” These are her words, expressing all her life attitude.

She tried to burn this love in the hearts of sisters of her congregation. This love is still the core of the actions taken by the Felician communities in Poland and abroad.

“*O praise the Lord. It is good to give thanks to the Lord.*”

The Church rejoices and thanks the Lord for the gift of beatification of Mother Maria Angela and for the entire Congregation of the Felician Sisters which originated out of her charisma.

**6.** I hail you, Sister Faustina. Since now the Church calls you Blessed, especially the Church in Poland and Lithuania. O Faustina, how strange was your path! Can't we ignore the fact that Christ chose you, a poor and simple daughter of Polish people from Mazovia, in order to remind people about the great mystery of the Divine Mercy. You have taken this secret with you, leaving this world after a short life, full of pain. At the same time, the mystery became a prophetic calling to the world, to Europe. Your Message of Divine Mercy was proclaimed as if a day before the disaster of World War II. You would be surprised to see what the message had become for the suffering people at that time of disgrace, and how fast it spread. Nowadays, we believe, you are observing the fruit of your earthly apostolate. Nowadays you experience Christ at the very source: *dives in misericordia.*

“*I feel that my apostolate shall not end with death, but that it shall only start,*” Sister Faustina wrote in her *Diary*. And it has become so. Sister Faustina's mission lasts and brings striking results. How strangely, the devotion to the Merciful Jesus becomes popular in the world, and conquers so many human hearts! It is a mark of our times, a mark of the twentieth century. The balance of the ending century, apart from achievements which have often surpassed previous eras, also contains deep with future. Where else, if not in the Divine Mercy, shall the world seek salvation and hope? Believers can sense it well!

“*Thank the Lord, as He is good. Thank the Lord, as He is merciful.*”

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Today, on the day of Beatification of Sister Faustina, we adore God for great deeds done in her soul. We praise Him, and thank Him for all He has done in human souls, which discover the magnitude of the Divine Mercy owing to her testimony and message.

**7.** I hail you, Stanisław of Kazimierz, priest of the Loretto Regular Canons. Your life was closely linked to Cracow, with its famous Academy, and the monastery at the Corpus Christi Church of the Kazimierz district, where your calling matured.

Stanisław lived in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, so long ago. It was an exceptional era for Cracow – the era of saints, age of special blossom of spiritual and religious life. At this time Cracow created people like St. John of Kanti, and the Blessed: Simon of Lipnica, Michał Giedroyc, Izajasz Boner, and Świętosław of Sławków. What a blessed age! Its spirituality was shaped by the saints and blessed, including Stanisław of Kazimierz: a devoted follower of the Eucharist, teacher and defender of the Gospel, pedagogue, leader of spiritual life, patron of the poor.

The memory of the sanctity of this God's servant is still living today. The inhabitants of Cracow, and especially of Kazimierz district, testified to the memory by praying at his relics until now. As Cracow Archbishop, I have often celebrated those prayers. Today, the Church officially confirms the worship, raising to the glory of the altars.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Mother Angela Truszkowska, Sister Faustina Kowalska, Stanisław Kazimierzczyk, these three new Polish blessed, our new intercessors. We need the intercession of the saints and blessed so much nowadays! This is a special Divine gift for the Church in Poland – a gift for our country.

Polish Church – Rejoice!

*Gaude Mater Polonia!*

**8.** We thank God, for He is good. We thank Him, for He is merciful.

These are the apostles gathered at the Last Supper: the first experiencing the Easter thanksgiving. They first received the Holy Spirit for redemption of sins. And in this spirit they were sent. “*As the Father sent me, so I send you*” (John, 20, 21). This apostolate lasts for years, from generation to generation. And the grace lasts as well, which can “*give new life to everything*” (cf. Acts 5, 21).

Here is Thomas, who became a special protagonist for all who say: “*Unless (...) I put my finger into the place (...), I will not believe it*” (John 20, 25). Eight days later he was the first among the ones confessing “*My Lord and my God!*” (John 20, 28). May the truth about Christ crucified and resurrect be accessible to increasingly younger generations of those who “*never saw (...) and yet have found faith*” (John 20, 29).

*Dives in misericordia.* How a man of all times needs the meeting with you, Christ, a meeting through faith tested in the fire of experiences, and which bears the fruit of joy, a paschal joy. The faith brings “a joy that is too great for words” (Peter, 1, 8).

Source: *L'Osservatore Romano*, 5-6/1993, p. 13-15.