

A Painting of Christ, King of Divine Mercy—the Divine Mercy Image
Italian artist Mara Maccari's depiction of Christ in the radiant blue light of his ethereal form, as an icon for contemplation at this time of his second coming:

It was Rudolf Steiner's mission to prepare the world for Christ's second coming—his coming in an ethereal form, the onset of which, as he indicated, began in the years 1930-1933—just as John the Baptist prepared for Christ's coming in a physical body two thousand years ago: his incarnation into the body of Jesus of Nazareth at the baptism in the River Jordan.

Sister Faustina (1905–1938) was a Polish nun who, from 1931 until the end of her life in 1938, experienced numerous visions, messages, and prayers relating to Christ in his second coming. In the year 2000 she was declared a saint and is now known as Saint Faustina. On February 22, 1931, Sister Faustina had a striking vision of Christ as the *King of Divine Mercy*. In this vision she beheld Christ with red and white translucent rays emanating from his Sacred Heart, with his right hand raised in a gesture of blessing and his left hand pointing to his Sacred Heart. Subsequent paintings thereof—such as this one by Mara Maccari—are depictions of the *Divine Mercy image*. On June 4, 1937, which that year was the festival day of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Christ spoke these words to Sister Faustina: “*Apostle of my mercy, proclaim to the whole world my unfathomable mercy.*”

It is to Christ in his second coming—to him who appeared to Saint Faustina as *unfathomable mercy*, who taught her the *mercy prayer*, and who said that she was the *apostle of his unfathomable mercy* at that time of the onset of his second coming in the 1930s—to whom we may turn now for the protection of humanity and Mother Earth at the present time of world crisis. Mara Maccari's painting of Christ in his ethereal form, revealing himself as the *Source of Divine Mercy* or, as Saint Faustina says, the *King of Divine Mercy*, can be a potent image for us as a focus for our contemplation. We can be grateful to Mara Maccari for making her inspired and evocative depiction of the *Divine Mercy image* available for meditation and contemplation.

Robert Powell

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