



SHE MADE
AN ORDINARY LIFE
EXTRAORDINARY

Compiled by *Sister M. Elzbieta Siepak*
Congregation
of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy

Translation

Teresa Batuk-Ulewiczowa

Nihil obstat

Fr. Jan Szczurek

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ul. Siostry Faustyny 3/9
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INTRODUCTION

The voices of the worshippers of the Divine Mercy, who are calling for a Christian formation in the spirit of this devotion, are coming to be heard more and more strongly. The beatification of Sister Faustyna, well known throughout the world as an apostle of the Divine Mercy and the inspirer of this devotion in its new forms, has prompted us to prepare a publication which would help their endeavours. In this book we want to show Sister Faustyna's road to Christian perfection as the model for all apostles and worshippers of the Divine Mercy. We also want to describe her mission, and especially the devotion to the Divine Mercy.

A fairly copious body of literature has grown up over the years presenting these matters in a variety of ways. The chronological bibliography for the years 1936 – 1991 submitted in the documents for the Process of Beatification, amounts to 570 items, which shows that there has been a considerable interest and need for publications on this subject. However a certain amount of information is required

to use these publications, since formerly the question of Sister Faustyna's spirituality and mission, including the devotion to the Divine Mercy, were presented in various ways. This was a result primarily of insufficient theological analysis of her writings. This task was undertaken only in the 1970's for the Beatification Process, by Professor Father Ignacy Różycki, whose scholarly commentary on the texts of Sister Faustyna was recognised by the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of the Saints as a highly commendable achievement. One of the theological censors [reviewers] wrote, "This is a genuine study of the writings . . . thanks to both the amount and quality of the work put into it and to the depth of the analysis," (Declaration II). A synopsis of Father Różycki's work is presented in his book published by the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy and entitled *Miłosierdzie Boże. Zasadnicze rysy nabożestwa do Miłosierdzia Bożego* [Divine Mercy: Fundamental Characteristics of the Devotion to the Divine Mercy], which provides a good explanation of the part of Sister Faustyna's mission which involves the devotion to the Divine Mercy.

We would like this description of Sister Faustyna's model of sanctity and her mission provide a practical service to all who wish to follow her example to Chris-

tian perfection, and who are contributing as best as they can to the spreading of the cult of the Divine Mercy and praying for the grace needed throughout the world.