



St. Mary's
Sligo,
Ireland

Tel: 071-9162670 · 9162769
Fax: 071-9162414
Email: elphindo@eircom.net

I am delighted to write the Word of Introduction to Professor Zwolinski's most recent book on the Mercy of God. The publication is providential. It comes at a time when Pope Francis announced this year as the Year of Grace and Justice dedicated to God's Mercy. Pope Francis issued the Bull of Indiction "Misericordiae Vultus", indicating the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Every day we experience forgiveness and reconciliation. We are touched by the great mystery of God's love for us. As followers of Jesus, who is the Icon and Face of our Merciful Father we are all called to the works of mercy and charity every day.

The Year of Mercy and indeed this book by Professor Zwolinski are very special because the World Day of Youth will take place this year on the 29th of July at the Central Shrine of Divine Mercy in Kraków. The small cell of Sister Faustina in the old convent in Kraków-Lagiewniki reminds us that the proclamation of God's Mercy is endless and eternal and the apostleship of Sister Faustina continues after her death. The diary of Sister Faustina is becoming more and more popular as spiritual reading for people all over the world. In her diary (note 281) she writes; "I feel certain that my mission will not come to an end upon my death, but will begin." The mystery of God's Mercy opens us up daily for eternal and perpetual communion with God who is rich in mercy and compassion.

I think this book by Professor Zwolinski gives us, in a special way, an insight into the spiritual, theological, historical and cultural challenges of the Polish people. The author refers specifically to the history and tradition of Poland. He calls on us to rediscover the struggles and challenges of life and how to proclaim God's mercy at various times in our history – especially today when we can observe the process of rapid secularisation and the crisis of the human condition on one hand and the call of God's mercy on the other.

I congratulate Professor Zwolinski who has published over two hundred books of theology and has given us all a clear insight and understanding of what is happening in our world today.

We all of course congratulate Fr Andrzej Szulczynski who has been generous enough to coordinate this whole project. We must all admire and appreciate the team of translators and consultors, especially Martin John, who have sought to find the sense and intention of the author and express it all in English. Sincerest thanks to all those who gave their valuable service voluntarily.

I am hoping that this translation will be a great inspiration for the World Youth Day in Kraków helping especially young people to discover how rich God is in mercy, how he loves the world and lives in each of us. We can express our response very simply in the words "Jesus, I trust you."

*+ Christopher Jones.
29 July 2016.*

✠ Christopher Jones
Bishop Emeritus of Elphin Diocese
Sligo
Ireland