

Divine Mercy Sunday (A) **Mercy, We Receive; Mercy We Shall Be.**

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, we hold on to one beautiful truth: God's mercy is real. We have received it. And we are called to share it.

In this weekend's gospel, we learned that the disciples are hiding behind locked doors. They are afraid and ashamed; they carry the weight of their failure. They had abandoned Jesus. They had run away.

Yet Jesus comes. He does not knock. He does not wait for them to explain. He does not ask, "Why did you leave me?" Instead, His first words are: "Peace be with you." Peace is His gift to His fearful disciples. Such a gift of peace frees them from overwhelming fear and doubt, allowing them to focus less on themselves and move beyond their own concerns.

When Jesus appeared to his disciples, he still bore his wounds. Why did the risen Lord show signs of agony? Shouldn't he appear flawless? These wounds reveal continuity between the crucifixion and the resurrection—they prove he is the same person. Moreover, they offer more than reminders of his death; they symbolize love and mercy. Thus, his pain led to a lasting outpouring of love—not retaliation, but forgiveness and healing.

By revealing his wounds, Jesus seems to say: "Instead of retaliating against your cruelty or defending myself, I accepted your inflictions." The risen Lord, in an act of mercy, offered us his mercy. If God enforced strict justice, we would all bear scars. We all fall short. But God's mercy prevails. Even when we cause pain, He spares us. He offers forgiveness, not hurt. His mercy brings true peace.

Understanding God's mercy is easy when we are on the receiving end. It becomes harder when it's our turn to show it. How about being wounded ourselves to spare others? Let us choose to refrain from reacting instantly to the slightest provocation, a simple remark, or a comment. What if we learn to let go of the hurts and grievances? The deepest wounds often come from nurturing hurts and negative thoughts. These never bring peace.

Let us remember our world desperately needs mercy. True peace can only come from Divine Mercy. All other consequences—prejudice, injustice, violence, corruption, and disregard for life—arise from a lack of mercy. St. Faustina said, "Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the fount of my mercy." The key message: only Divine Mercy can heal our hearts and bring lasting peace to the world. Let us continue to contemplate Christ's wounds. Let them guide us toward mercy. Pray that, like St. Thomas, who confessed Jesus' Lordship after touching his wounds, we who receive the Body and Blood of our risen Lord may receive and witness to his mercy.

As a concrete response, let us make a firm commitment today: Each of us will actively live out Divine Mercy by performing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy this week and beyond. Let us not merely intend to serve, but intentionally act—seek out opportunities, challenge ourselves to go beyond comfort, and truly let mercy shape our daily lives.

Through these concrete acts, we not only receive mercy but also become its living messengers, fulfilling the true call of Divine Mercy. These works include: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, burying

the dead, giving alms to the poor; admonishing the sinner, instructing the ignorant, counseling the doubtful, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving offenses, comforting the afflicted, and praying for the living and the dead.

Mercy, we received; mercy we shall give.

Fr. Manny Hewe, Pastor