



Divine Mercy Sunday Reflection With Fr. Rafal

Dear Friends of St. Joseph Parish,

On this Second Sunday of Easter 2025, the Church celebrates the Feast of Divine Mercy. United as a community of believers, we continue to express our joy and faith in the risen Christ. As we celebrate the victory of Christ over death, there is one crucial thing we must remember. This is that we must be united to bear an effective witness to the resurrected Christ as the early Christian community did.

The first reading of this Sunday from Acts of the Apostles begins with this beautiful motto: one heart and one soul. This summarizes the way the early Christian community lived and testified to the risen Lord: "The apostles continue to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were greatly respected."

One of the best ways to bear testimony to the risen Christ is through unity. Christ himself prayed for it: "Father that they may be one as you and I are one" (John 17:21). Of course, he knew that there would be many challenges to this. He knew that this unity would not rob anyone of his personality. Above all, he knew that this unity is necessary for our success. It is unity in diversity for the progress of His mission. Christ was sure that living in unity is the best testimony we can bear as his disciples. Hence, the early disciple paid attention to this instruction by being united in their mission. They demonstrated this through their preaching and lifestyles.

In today's gospel, Christ presented himself to his disciples. During this very important visit, he restored their peace and commissioned them as ministers of the sacrament of reconciliation. The sacrament of reconciliation is the sacrament of mercy. It was not easy for Thomas to believe that Christ has risen. So, as we bear witness to the risen Christ, we shall certainly encounter people who will doubt our testimony. This must not discourage us. The Holy Spirit will convince them. We should remain focused on our mission. So, as true disciples of Christ, let us continue to announce the good news to the whole world that Jesus Christ, our Lord has truly risen from the dead.

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday today, we are reminded that God extended his mercy to us by allowing his son to pay the ransom for our sins. Christ accomplished this through his paschal mystery. Finally, we must also extend this mercy to others. Hence, we are called to be apostles of mercy. So, as we spread the good news of Christ's resurrection, we must give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is because, his mercy and generosity endure forever.

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

Have a Blessed Divine Mercy Sunday 2025!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza,

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