

“The Mercy of God”

Today, the octave of Easter, is Divine mercy Sunday. On February 22 1931, St Faustina a Polish nun was visited by Jesus as **“King of Divine Mercy.”** According to her, Jesus was wearing a white garment with red and pale rays oozing from His heart. She said Jesus asked her to become the **‘apostle and secretary of God’s mercy, a model of how to be merciful to others.’** She was to become an instrument for reemphasizing God’s plan of mercy for the world.

According to her, in His message, Jesus explained that He wanted the Divine Mercy image to be **“Solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter as the Feast of Mercy”** with the words, **“Jesus I trust in you.”** It is from St Faustina that we have received the prayer of divine mercy chaplet that we pray before Mass every Sunday since the year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis last year.

God is gracious and merciful and wishes us to be merciful to all. He says if we are merciful we will receive mercy. He wants us to repent and return to Him no matter how great is our sins. God is rich in mercy and prefers our repentance and conversion rather than our death. He is patient and generous in His mercy.

Jesus, through His blood has made God to turn to us in mercy and has reconciled us with our Father who is in heaven. His blood that He shed for the forgiveness of our sins that we remembered on Holy Thursday is not an ordinary blood, it is the blood of the New and everlasting Covenant made between God and us. It is the blood shed for our salvation which we represent to the Father at every Mass.

God is mercy; and He sent His Son to teach us about how to live, to teach us about mercy, and then for Him to seal our salvation with His blood by dying for us out of mercy. So, if we hope for mercy, we must show mercy.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus showed us that mercy and peace go together. St. John the Evangelist presented Jesus as revealing Himself to His apostles on Sundays. Each time, He proclaimed to them **“Peace be with you.”** The first time, out of His mercy, Jesus gave His apostles the power to forgive sins in His name. The second time on the first day of the week, again out of His mercy, and through the unbelief of Thomas, Jesus blessed all who have not seen and have believed. We are the recipient of these blessings since we are here because we believe in Him.

Jesus showed Himself as being raised with the same body by the five wounds on His body and because of His mercy, He showed His apostles, His hands and His side. Jesus knowing sin would come, gave them the great commission of mercy by instituting the sacrament of mercy which reconciles us to His Father by breathing on them with His Holy Spirit.

This was as proof that the work of redemption was finished by Him and the office of the apostles was commissioned to apply the fruits of redemption on all of humanity. The office of the apostles is the same as the office of the Church which is divinely instituted. That is why Jesus said **“Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”**

In our Psalm today, we praised God by saying “His mercy endures forever.” Yes to those who love Him, His love is manifested as everlasting.

After His resurrection, Jesus keyed on two Sacraments. First on the journey to Emmaus, Jesus said the second Mass and the eyes of His two disciples where opened at the breaking of the bread. The other Sacrament is the Sacrament of reconciliation that we heard today. God’s will is to save us and nothing pleases Him more than when we are reconciled with Him.

As we come to receive Him in the Eucharist after we have been reconciled to His Father, let us rejoice in His mercy that is everlasting.

