



FROM THE PASTOR
& ADMINISTRATOR
Msgr. Figliozzi

Divine Mercy Sunday 2020 Message

*“For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world”*

We pray these words during the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and they are prayed even more intensely during this time of pandemic. They are prayed by those dedicated to this devotion and now by those new to this devotion due to their fears for what is taking place.

With these words, we may be addressing God but as people of faith we know that God has demonstrated the fullness of His Mercy upon the whole world through the Passion, Death and Resurrection of His Son, Jesus our Lord.

These words then are a reminder to us who easily forget what the mercy of God is all about. We cry out to Him at times of peril and with our fears. And does an answer come? If we're waiting for a god with a magic wand to make all that we fear and don't like go away we shouldn't hold our breath! That's not the God we love and believe in. We pray, we beg, we implore – and what do we hear in return? Seemingly, only silence. So where is God in all this? I can confidently point to Him for you. He is in the Tabernacle in our Church. But we need Him to leave the Tabernacle now you say. But isn't God there – truly there, because of His Mercy – His Divine Mercy? You see, God does not stay separated from His people – He doesn't distance Himself from us. Jesus suffered, died, and was buried. He knows what the world and our families may be going through now. He went through it all and then some. Why? So that we learn not to waste this time of suffering.

We see the heroic sacrifices of so many caring for the affected at the risk of their own infection. Will we be thankful not just today but forever appreciate those sacrifices? Will we be inspired by their sacrifices to make similar ones when it's our turn to be there for someone?

For believing Catholics, it all relates back to the Tabernacle where God is right now. Whenever you come to visit Him in the Sacrament of His love, we have our vision clarified, our minds enlightened, and our hearts strengthened. We acknowledge how Jesus has had and continues to have mercy on us and the whole world! He knows about human suffering – he endured it to the end. But then He transformed it as well.

In today's Gospel, Thomas says he won't believe until he can see the nail marks and put his hand in Jesus' side that was cut open with a lance while He was on the cross. Thomas got his wish – what he prayed for! The Risen Jesus comes to him and invites Thomas to do just what he said he needed to do in order to believe that Jesus had been truly raised from the dead.

The Risen Jesus transformed Thomas' doubt and disbelief and turned it into – rather, turned Thomas into a faithful disciple, willing to give absolute witness to the person of Jesus Christ as the true Son of God, the Messiah. Jesus convinced Thomas by showing Thomas His wounds suffered on the cross.

We need to look at and remember these wounds of Jesus right now. They are the proof of the Divine Mercy bestowed upon us and on the whole world. When we look upon them do our minds and hearts change like Thomas did? Do our eyes see more clearly now as Thomas saw and finally believed?

Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. It is the proof of the love and mercy of God. And it is also the Word that comes to us right now that we must hear. The Word, not just a word, but the Word that reminds us that we come from God and we are created to return to God and that our very lives, each day, need to be lived with an attitude of selflessness and thanksgiving. Selflessness – for we are here to sacrifice for one another. Thanksgiving – for we owe every breath of our life to God who made us!

And then Jesus said to Thomas:

*“Have you believed because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”*

Then Saint John adds in chapter 20, verses 30 and 31:

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

On your next visit to Church, see His wounds on the Cross – then turn your eyes to the Tabernacle and remember – God is there! And pray that you may never forget that – and always believe that!

In Jesus, our Risen Lord,



Rev. Msgr. Richard M. Figliozzi
Pastor

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