

Homily By Fr. Antony Chundelikkat on Divine Mercy Sunday

April 19th 2020

Today is the 'Divine Mercy Sunday'. And the readings for this Sunday are about God's mercy. Today's Gospel speak about the appearance of Jesus to His disciples. St. Thomas had always been a doubtful disciple, even before the suffering and death of Jesus. And that comes to the problem which our world is facing today, as more and more people refused to believe in the Lord, because they thought that He does not exist, and that He is not real, just because they were unable to see Him, or touch Him, or interact with Him directly, in a way that we normally interact between one another. The doubting Thomas utters the greatest confession of belief in the Lord, "My Lord and my God." It is Thomas who's doubt healed the wounds of all of our doubts". Jesus shows his hands and his side. He points to Thomas, the wounds of the Passion, especially the wound in his heart, the source from which flows the great wave of mercy poured out on humanity. A priest was forced by a police officer to pull over for speeding. As the officer was about to write the ticket, the priest said to him, "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*" The police officer handed the priest the ticket, and said, "*Go, and sin no more.*" The root of our English word "mercy," is *misericordia*. Mercy, therefore, carries the idea of having compassion on someone with all of one's heart. Sister Maria Faustina, a Polish nun was chosen 1930's to make known His desire that the world accept his limitless mercy.

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC: A- Ask for His Mercy. Jesus told St. Faustina: What offends Him more than the sins people commit is people's lack of trust in His mercy. B – Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. Mother Teresa said: "If you judge people, you have no time to love them." C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive. "Jesus, I trust in You!" This prayer clearly expresses the attitude with which we, too would like to abandon ourselves trustfully in the hands of our only Savior – Jesus Christ. On Mercy Sunday Our Lord asked that the image of the merciful Saviour be blessed and venerated and that Sister Faustina have an image painted with the words: "Jesus, I trust in you", so as to draw mercy from the infinite ocean of God's mercy. Jesus is coming towards us with his right hand raised in blessing, his left hand touching his garment near the heart, where two great rays of light shine forth, one red, the other pale. He is dressed in the white robes of a priest coming with his hands raised in blessing with salvation for those who are waiting, coming with gifts of mercy, the life-giving water, blood and spirit. So today we remember to turn to the Lord saying: "Jesus, I trust in you." Even if our sins be as red as blood, they will be made white as wool if we turn to his infinite mercy and trust in him. "Jesus mercy, I trust in you." Today is the day of mercy, available to us and to the whole world, to all who call upon his name. With Saint Thomas the Apostle

we reach out and touch the wounds of Jesus and place our hands in his pierced side and draw on his infinite mercy and cry out: “My Lord and my God. Jesus, I trust in you.”