

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HALF HOUR for 6th April, 2018

“My Lord and my God” (Jn 20: 28)

Opening Hymn: No. 44 – As we gather... (Ant 1, Verse 2/3)

Introduction:

As we look forward to Divine Mercy Sunday, a day on which the Church celebrates the merciful love of God shining through the Easter Triduum and the whole Easter Mystery, we remember what Jesus said to St. Faustina, “Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to Divine Mercy.” Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity. Divine Mercy Sunday, therefore, points us to the merciful love of God that lies behind the whole Paschal Mystery – the passion, death, burial and resurrection of Christ – made present for us in the Eucharist. The Octave Day of Easter fulfills the grace of atonement as lived through by Christ Jesus and offered to all who come to him with trust.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

As we spend these moments in the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, let us focus on the response of Thomas in his encounter with the Risen Lord, “My Lord and My God” as a call to adoration and communion with God.

(Silence 2 min)

As we approach Divine Mercy Sunday, through the intercession of St. Faustina, let us ask the Lord of Mercy for the grace to become true messengers of Mercy to those around us.

(Silence 1 min)

Scripture Reading : Jn 20 : 19-31

(Silence 5 min)

REFLECTION:

The disciples were all huddled together behind locked doors, fearful of what would happen to them now that Jesus was dead. And the Risen Christ appeared to them like a light shining in the darkness with his words “Peace be with you” - a greeting that brought them hope and joy. The gift of the Risen Christ to us is Peace. How am I sharing the Peace of Christ with those around me? **(Silence 2 min)**

Thomas' skepticism was similar to our own. It is the struggle of faith against the limitations of human reasoning and experiences. And yet, Jesus turned Thomas' doubt into an event of Mercy for generations to come. As we meditate in gratitude for God's gracious mercy shown to us, let us look honestly at the mercy that we show to others. Our God is a God of mercy. Are we a Church of mercy? **(Silence 2 min)**

Hymn: No. 165 - He is Lord... (Verse 2/3)

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS: *(You could choose from the following)*

With trust in His Divine Mercy, let us place our humble petitions before our Lord.

Response: Merciful Father, hear our prayer.

1. That our Holy Father, Pope Francis, bishops, priests, and religious may each bear witness to the love and mercy of God; we pray to the Lord...
2. That the Mercy of our Risen Savior may draw all sinners to repentance, forgiveness, and healing, we pray to the Lord...
3. That world leaders may be guided by God's mercy and compassion when they are faced with difficult situations, we pray to the Lord...
4. That love and peace may prevail throughout the world, especially in areas of conflict and that hatred will be replaced by a spirit of forgiveness and brotherhood, we pray to the Lord...
5. That all the sick, and those who suffer in any way, may be consoled and strengthened by God's grace and the care shown by His people, we pray to the Lord...
6. That the Holy Spirit may be able to transform our doubts and skepticism into a strong faith and trust in God; we pray to the Lord....
7. That we may spend less time worrying about bringing back the "hardened sinners" and more time showing mercy to those who have strayed or are struggling to stay on; we pray to the Lord.....
8. That we may use this "Easter gift" to show mercy and compassion especially to those who have hurt or rejected us; we pray to the Lord.....
9. That we may show humility and acceptance especially at times we are reprimanded for our wrong-doings; we pray to the Lord.....

God our Father, through Jesus' passion, death and resurrection, you have gifted us the promise of eternal life. With loving mercy and compassion, look with favour on our petitions; we make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

As we prepare for Benediction, we remember that Pope Saint John Paul II himself established that Divine Mercy Sunday be enriched by a plenary indulgence so that the faithful might receive in great abundance the gift of the consolation of the Holy Spirit. We also remember Jesus' words *"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."*

Benediction Hymn:

Divine Praises:

Concluding Hymn: No. 139 - Go, go into the world...

*Written by
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