

Divine Mercy Sunday

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In chapter 3:12 of his Letter to the Philippians, St. Paul declared that: “Christ Jesus has made me His own.” This was expressed as the culmination and profound revelation of St. Paul’s experience of the love and mercy he received from Jesus. Similarly, today’s Gospel contains St. Thomas’ hearty emotional proclamation of great faith: “My Lord and my God!” In this declaration, Thomas expressed the depth of his feeling; of receiving the love and mercy of his Lord. As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, let us also experience the warmth of Jesus’ love and compassion in our hearts.

When Thomas said he would not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead without first seeing and touching his beloved Lord, it showed his deep love for the Lord and the daring wish to also experience the presence of Jesus as all the others had had earlier. His cry after seeing the resurrected Christ: "My Lord and my God!" reflected this deep-rooted love, born from the realization of true affection deep within the pure soul of Thomas. Pope Benedict XVI described Thomas' declaration of faith: "My Lord and my God!" as the greatest confession of faith ever recorded in the Gospels.

Here are some important things the actions of Apostle Thomas teach us:

First: faith is a ‘recognition’, a recognition of who Christ is. Thomas recognized the Resurrected Lord. Beyond sight and hearing, through this recognition came the unwavering zeal and conviction from his heart that guided St. Thomas to journey and to evangelize as far as India, to proclaim the Christ-experience that he had confessed.

Secondly, from his life we know that faith is a ‘waiting’: waiting with hope; waiting with the certainty that the presence of the Risen One will be here and now present in our lives.

Thirdly, faith is a ‘trust’. When Thomas saw the Risen Jesus before him, he surrendered his whole life to Him. We see a reflection of this complete trust in God in Thomas' declaration of faith.

When Jesus spoke to Sr. Faustina, He invited all humans to experience this profound kindness, love, and mercy in the way St. Thomas had received his, in his life. In Sr. Faustina’s diary, we read that Jesus said:



“On that day [Divine Mercy Sunday], the very depths of My tender mercy are opened. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. ... On that day, all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. ... This Feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of my tender mercies. Every soul believing and trusting in My mercy will obtain it. ... Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to Divine Mercy.”

(St. Faustina, Diary Entry 699)

As we celebrate the Divine mercy and love of Christ today, Jesus invites all people to come, see, and touch: an invitation to experience Jesus and the depth of His mercy.

Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church received from the Risen Christ and offers to humanity.

My dear brothers and sisters, when we are filled with the presence of the Resurrected Christ, His mercy and love is poured out to our souls.