

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner

Readings: Acts 4:32-35

Monday, April 9, 2018



God's Mercy Alone

Divine Mercy Sunday

How could what happened in around the year 1938 and then in 2002, affect our lives? Well, that is the story of Divine Mercy, yes it is....

One week after the triumphant resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have another growing Feast of Divine Mercy. It is impossible to mention this Feast brought to the world by St. JohnPaul II (pope), without the name of St. Faustina being in the mix. Who was this saint? Yes, she was a Polish nun who lived during the time of World War II; she experienced a series of heavenly requests. St. Faustina received like, another nun, St. Catherine Laboure a hundred years before, an image which was to be shared with the world. I guess the historical aspect of this image is of less importance than the message which the image brings.

Why God's mercy? Let us examine what is the meaning of mercy-... it does not mean *'feeling sorry'*. Mercy is an identification of one human being with the suffering of another, it is as if you too are suffering with the victim, - *having compassion*. Who is a better example of feeling the suffering of humanity, than the life of Jesus? During His 3-year public ministry, He often spoke about the word 'mercy' and 'compassion.' It was Jesus, a God-man without sin, paying the 'ultimate price-with His agony and death on the Cross- having full compassion to take upon Himself our sins and paid the price for our redemption. Only God can demonstrate complete and total *mercy*. Yes, we at times could demonstrate a level of compassion for those around us; but only God could extend true and complete 'mercy' upon us.... Only His mercy has *staying power*.

The Readings this week reflects on what it is like to live in God's mercy.

*“With great power, the apostles bore witness
to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,
and great favor was accorded them all” (Acts 4:33)*

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, His followers were not in the best frame of mind; yet they had learned to rely on God's mercy to get them through. What lied ahead, they did not know what they did know they professed to all who could hear. To bear witness to the Jesus' resurrection was to totally disobey the political order of that time. Proclaiming a dead prophet was God and He was alive would not put them in the good graces of Rome or their religious overseers. *(Pharisees, chief priests, scribes)* Yet, in God's mercy they spoke not for themselves, but the truth of what they believed.

“The community of believers was of one heart and mind...” (Acts. 4:32)

In God's mercy we exist with those of one mind, of like faith, we are supportive and respectful and have compassion for those like us and those we do not personally know and are different.

*“There was no needy person among them,
for those who owned property or houses would sell them,
bring the proceeds of the sale*

..... and they were distributed to each according to need.” (Act 4:34-5)

This was what made the early Christians such a powerful group, in the midst of socio-political opposition of those in power; there was a tangible adherence to having compassion for all.

Where are we today? Have we relied on God's mercy in our lives? Then we too have to show mercy and compassion to those around us, Jesus did not give us a choice. *(as some would think)* One of our preferences as Catholic is to choose some of Christ teachings and try to explain away the ones we do not like. *Hmmmm*

“Be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful (compassionate)” (Lk. 6:36)

God extends His mercy upon us so that we can model to extend our mercy or compassion towards others. Therefore, it is in God's mercy we have the ability to do for others. We can say that Divine Mercy Sunday is when the font of God's mercy is opened for us to draw our fill. If it is by God's mercy, we are alive; then we need to be at the place where God's mercy will flow upon us so that we can reach out to others. God's

mercy desires that we all join Him in heaven at the right time. Don't wait until you are sick or dying to seek God's mercy, be there to receive while you are strong and could extend this mercy to others. Question is -do you think you need God's mercy? If your response is **'yes'**. Then you need Divine Mercy Sunday to pray that these rays of mercy fall on you and your whole household...

Join our parish on Divine Mercy Sunday at 3 p.m.

'Have mercy on us and on the whole world.'

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's reading written by

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