

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Monday, April 29, 2019

Gospel: Jn.20:19-31

2nd Week of Easter

Divine Mercy Sunday

Over the past few months I have attended the funeral for 2 young people, both committing suicide. It never fails to bring a feeling of deep sadness, as I see the lives of these young people gone before early in such a finalist way. There is the deep sorrow that somehow we failed to help them recognize the deep abiding love and mercy that Jesus offers to all of us. I am sure if they felt the loving arms of the mercy of God, there would have been a different outcome. Yes, the world now more than ever need to feel and become enveloped by the mercy of God. The belief in the realities of God's mercy is somehow slow to reach to others. We are smothered by the propensity to violence against little children, college students and people practicing their faith, the violence around us continues.

Jesus always invited the weak, those who saw little hope to become part of His Kingdom, He selected fishermen who were unable to read or write; but became the first priests- the Apostles. A woman who was cast aside by her people; became the person Jesus was recorded to have had the longest conversation with Him; which converted her and her community-a foreigner, a Samaritan Woman. Jesus selected a woman to reveal the news that He had risen-Mary Magdelene. Saul of Tarsus whose life was bent on destroying all who followed Jesus, was to have a life changing encounter with Him, *whom he persecuted*- St. Paul. It was Thomas, an absent Apostle who had to be convinced of Jesus's resurrection, which established the well-known phrase,

" My Lord, and my God." (Jn. 20:28)

Again, we can relate to the poor, sickly nun from Poland, who was to become the emmissary of Jesus' Divine Mercy for all. St. Faustina who would never travel outside of her country would bring the vision Christ

mercies to the world. It is these thousands of individuals, *(better known as saints)* whom God has called upon through salvation history to testify and

“Rejoiced when they saw the Lord” (Jn. 20:20)

We too are called to say,

“We have seen the Lord.” (Jn. 20:25)

How do you see the Lord? Thomas demonstrated the practical way to know that we have seen Him.

*“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” (Jn. 20:25)*

Our human restlessness will only encounter peace, when we feel the warming mercies of God penetrating our soul. Then we will come to realize that all falls short of God’s mercy in our lives. Feeling the mercy of God, is firmly encountered when we step outside of ourselves and we meet the poor, children, those who are persecuted, those whose dignity has been torned from them through abuse, those who are neglected in society – our mentally ill, prisoners, the handicapped, those who are unemployed and classified as refugees. Let us learn that when *we have seen our Lord*, we can obtain the *peace* Jesus gives to us.

“Peace be with you.” (Jn.20:19)

So on this Divine Mercy Sunday, we are assured of the boundless mercy pouring from the wounds of Jesus will flood our lives and our world, if we just open our hearts and minds. We are assured of the Easter *peace* of Jesus, if *we can see the Lord*. We see the Lord as *we serve others*, not with complaints, and sighs; but with joy knowing that our personal encounter with God comes through others. Don’t miss your ability to ‘*see the Lord*’ because we avoid people we did not want to meddle, to extend our words of comfort and hope. We are the ones to let our young people know that the things of this world will not last, it is bright and showy; but will leave us cold, empty and despairing. In God’s mercy we will find peace and the true Easter joy.

‘Have mercy on us and on the whole world.’

Let us pray for our Christians, Jews who are being persecuted because of their faith; let us lift up people in Mozambique who (little news focused on this) were faced with two cyclones.



Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly sharing of Holy Week readings written by Brenda Chee Wah,
a parishioner of Christ Our Hope Catholic Church in Lithonia, Georgia.

Your remarks, questions and comments can be emailed to faithinlaity@gmail.com

<http://www.christourhopeatl.org/becoming-a-catholic/christ-our-hope-catholic-church-weekly-reflections.php>

Find and join us on FaceBook- Christ Our Hope Atlanta

Weekly readings taken from USCCB