

Homily of the Second Week of Easter of Year A (Divine Mercy Sunday)



We read in the Gospel that doors were locked for fear of the Jews, yet Jesus came in. It is our prayer that no locked doors prevent the blessings God has for us. One of the blessings of Easter is peace. Jesus greeted his disciples, "Peace be with you." May each one of us receive the peace of Easter. Amen.

The first reading says, "All who believed were together and had things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all people. **And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.**" Acts 4:32-35 puts it this way, "The community of believers was of

one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any possession was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles witnessed the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, **and great favor was accorded them all.** There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them and, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need." These passages remind me of Psalm 133, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell together as one! ... **There the Lord has decreed a blessing.**" It is clear that God bestows progress, favor and other blessings wherever there is one heart and mind.

The early Christian community life style is a model for us here in this parish and in our homes. Let us remain one family and one love. If any sister or brother has any concerns, let the concerns be made known, and as a family we reason out what is possible. Please, let no one go away in anger or frustration. St. Peter writes, "Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). Love heals. Love builds. Love creates. Love binds. Love unites. Love forgives. On Easter Sunday, we prayed for light of Christ. Today we are praying for love of Christ, peace of Christ and mercy of Christ. With these graces, every locked door will open. Where there is no love, there is no progress; rather there is bad blood, friction, war and stagnation. There is also decay and disintegration.

Christ's divine mercy flows from his side as we see in the image. We are invited to touch the side of Jesus as Thomas did. As we have read in the Gospel, Thomas was away when Jesus appeared to the apostles. When he was told about Jesus' appearance, he refused to believe. He said, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into his nail marks and put my hand in his side, I will not believe." Thomas did not want to hear stories. He wanted to see the risen Lord and experience the power of his resurrection (Philippians 3:10). Jesus had to appear again as Thomas desired and healed him his doubt. Thomas touched the wound of Jesus and was healed. 1 Peter 2:24 says, "By his wounds we are healed." This is what I call Thomas privilege. No other person in the New Testament had the same privilege. "Then he said to Thomas, 'put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my hand, and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.'" That was, of course, how Thomas wanted it. When his healing took place Thomas made the greatest profession of faith: "My Lord and my God."

This Eucharistic celebration, the word of God and the Holy Communion we receive are our touching Jesus. Let us touch with faith and be healed. We pray for spiritual and physical healing: the healing of our homes, our places of business, our communities, our church, our country, and our world. Amen.

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