

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - GOD NEVER TIRES TO FORGIVE US



On this Sunday, which concludes the octave of Easter, we hear Jesus wishing us peace. This is not a greeting or a simple wish; it is a gift he offers to his disciples and to each of us. This peace is the victory of love over evil; it is the fruit of God's forgiveness and mercy. Jesus addresses this peace to disciples who had abandoned him. They had left him alone to face suffering and death. They themselves felt threatened. They expected to be arrested and condemned along with their Master. To protect themselves from this danger, they hide and shut themselves away in a secret place.

It is then that Jesus meets them where they are. He reaches out to them to give them a message of peace: the peace of the resurrection, the peace of forgiving mercy, the peace that touches the heart. This is the message of peace that the Risen Christ addresses to us today. We need it because we live in a world hostile or indifferent to the faith of Christians. The temptation remains great to withdraw and keep to us.

As we continue reading this Gospel, we discover that Jesus did something even more incredible: He sent his disciples on a mission. "As the Father has sent Me, so I send you..." He could have thought he could not count on them because they were unreliable. But now, despite their weaknesses and betrayal, He renews His complete trust in them. He gives them His Holy Spirit so that they can spread the forgiveness of sins throughout the world, the forgiveness that only God can give.

Today, as in the past, the Church is sent to transmit the forgiveness of sins to men. She has been given the mission of growing the Kingdom of Love and sowing peace in hearts. Thus, the Spirit of the Risen Christ banishes fear from the hearts of the apostles. He urges them to leave the Upper Room to proclaim the Gospel to all. This same Holy Spirit is given to us to bear witness to our faith in the risen Jesus. **We must no longer be afraid to be Christians and to live as Christians. The Lord assures us of His presence, and we can always count on Him.**

The second reading is taken from the Book of Revelation. To understand it, we must know that this book was written for persecuted Christians. Saint John invites them to stand firm despite the trials they endure. The absolute priority is to return to the heart of faith in Christ, who died and rose again. It is by looking to the cross that we begin to understand. Through His death and resurrection, He is victorious over death and sin. It is in this victory that He wants to share with us.

We all need to relearn how to live by this merciful Love that is in Jesus. We Christians are invited to adjust to Jesus, Who wants to save all men at all costs, even those who have committed the worst. As He did for the disciples, He sends us. But the main work is His. He is at work; we are only the maneuvers.

To conclude, here are a few words from Pope Francis: **"God never tires of forgiving... the problem is that we tire, we don't want to, we tire of asking for forgiveness. God never tires of forgiving... God's name is Mercy."** **"O Lord, send your Spirit who renews the face of the earth."** May He be with us to announce to the world that forgiveness is always possible.