

Divine Mercy Sunday 2017

Year A

*“As a gift to humanity, which sometimes seems bewildered and overwhelmed by the power of evil, selfishness, and fear, the Risen Lord offers His love that pardons, reconciles, and reopens hearts to love. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy!” St. John Paul II*

The above quote that I just read to you from St. John Paul II for me captures the essence of God’s mercy for all of us.

I am 72 years old. I went to school as many of you did when we spent time particularly in grammar school getting down on the floor and putting our heads under the desk just in case we were attacked and Adam bomb was dropped on us. Those are frightening days. Not only did we learn to put our heads under a desk there were men and women who walked around the streets with arm bands telling us they were wardens and signs for bomb shelters. Scary!

My dear friends I have never been so fearful as I presently am of what may happen in our world today. The Power of evil is very strong today. I am not a gloomy person I am very upbeat, positive always seeing the best in everyone, but as I look at our world situation we can be as the Pope said bewildered and overwhelmed by the power of evil that is confronting us from all sides. And all that throws us into tremendous fear because we see that people are so selfish and they have no sense of the common good.

This is a terrible way to have to walk through life. And yet unfortunately so many people do see the gloomy side of life. And it can become depressing causing a person to become cynical, selfish and lost in their own selves.

**Last Sunday** we celebrated the great feast of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Last Sunday** we were offered hope. **Last Sunday** we were offered new life. **Last Sunday** fear was taken from us. **Last Sunday** the resurrection of Jesus we came to realize that no matter who we are or what we have done in the past or what we do today that God’s love is so great for us that he pardons us and reconciles us and reopens our hearts to receive his love.

In my bedroom as I’m sure many of your homes you may have the picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate heart of Mary. When I pray in my room which I do all the time I look at the heart of Jesus and I love that image. **The heart** is warm; **the heart** is on fire; **the heart** burns away all evil.

There is something about fire; it’s tantalizing. It puts you into a trance. A friend of mine told me the story that his father’s house caught fire and this was a serious fire and the father opened the door to one of his rooms and he was all of a sudden struck and he couldn’t move he was

looking at these flames in front of him that were dancing they were pulling him into the fire and it was only by God's grace that his wife grabbed him and pulled him out of the house.

This is what Jesus's heart does to us... that heart that burns, that heart that forgives us, that heart that loves us.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday I reflect on the words from St. Paul the Cross when he talked to a young man about confession and what happens to our sins. "Our sins are nothing other than a cotton swab thrown into the roaring forest fire of God's love."

That is Divine Mercy that is what we celebrate today. No sin, no power of evil, no selfishness can prevent us from receiving God's love and God's grace. Jesus in his Resurrection has reopened our hearts to accept love and in accepting the Divine love he offers us the grace of peace.

"Peace be with you."