

## Second Sunday of Easter

A man was brought to Mercy Hospital for surgery. The operation went well. The sister waiting by his bed said to the man, "You're going to be just fine," and asked him, "We want to know how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you covered by insurance?" He whispered, "No, I'm not." The sister asked, "Can you pay in cash?" He replied, "I'm afraid I can't, Sister." She continued, "Do you have any close relatives, then?" The patient replied, "Just my sister in New Mexico, but she's a spinster nun." The sister said, "Nuns are not spinsters, Mr. Smith. They are married to Jesus." The man said with a smile, "Okay, then send the bill to Jesus, my brother-in-law."

Dear Friends,

Since 2000, the second Sunday of Easter is honored to Divine Mercy Sunday. Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina on the 30<sup>th</sup>, of April 2000 the second Sunday of Easter. He himself was canonized on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 on the same day. At the canonization of St. Faustina, Saint John Paul II said, "Believing in the love of God means believing in His mercy." Saint Faustina invites us by the witness of her life to keep our Faith and Hope fixed on God, the Father, rich in mercy, who saved us by the precious Blood of His Son.

During her short life, the Lord Jesus assigned to St. Faustina three basic tasks: 1. to pray for souls, entrusting them to God's incomprehensible Mercy; 2. to tell the world about God's generous Mercy; 3. to start a new movement in the Church focusing on God's Mercy. At the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope St. John Paul II said, "The cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, speaks, and never ceases to speak, of God the Father, who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man. Believing in this love means believing in mercy." "The Lord of Divine Mercy," a drawing of Jesus based on the vision given to St. Faustina, shows Jesus raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing, with His left hand on his heart from which gush forth two rays, one red and one white. The picture contains the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!"

The readings today expresses love of God, rich in mercy. When you trust in someone, you can experience and cherish the love. Love demands trust. In the family life, the spouses trust each other to bring a long lasting family. Many times, we do not express our trust explicitly, but we express our love. The first reading today tells us how the early Christian community shared their love and trust in God and among themselves. The apostles bore witness to Jesus resurrection.

In the gospel, Jesus appeared to the disciples and brought them peace. He gave them the Holy Spirit to support them. The second part of the Gospel talks about Thomas' encounter

of Jesus' love, mercy and compassion. He claimed to touch Jesus' wounds. But he never did. Thomas was able to overcome his doubts by seeing the risen Jesus. Modern Christians, who are no longer able to "see" Jesus with their eyes, must believe what they hear. That is why Paul reminds us, "Faith comes from hearing" (Rom 10:17). "This Gospel shows us that Faith comes in different ways to different people. The beloved disciple believes upon seeing the empty tomb (v. 8). Mary believes when the Lord calls her name (v. 16). The disciples must see the risen Lord (v. 20). Thomas says that he must touch the wounds (v. 25)—although that need evaporates once he sees the risen Christ (v. 28). People find various routes to faith.

How do find your faith by seeing Jesus in the Eucharist? Let us realize God loves and brings his Mercy to us by his death and resurrection.