

Divine Mercy Sunday – 04/24/2022

“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.”

Today is the feast of Divine Mercy and every year on this Feast the Church has us recall the words and actions of Saint Thomas the Apostle – “Doubting Thomas.”

Saint Thomas is probably the world’s most famous doubter. So what does it mean to doubt? One definition is to lack trust or confidence.

Ironically, on this day in particular our Lord Jesus Christ through his Church is calling us to have the utmost trust and confidence in his Divine Mercy.

Just look at the image that our Lord asked Saint Faustina to have painted. He specifically wanted it to be inscribed with the words, “Jesus, I trust in you!”

The promises associated with this feast are immense. Listen to the words of Jesus as recorded in Saint Faustina’s diary.

“On one occasion, I heard these words: My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and

especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. **The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.** On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.”

So why exactly does the Church ask us to reflect on Saint Thomas’ doubt on this day?

Well, it was no accident. God knew from all eternity that Saint Thomas would doubt and therefore determined from all eternity that the world would know about it, witness his conversion and be converted themselves.

In a marvelous way God’s mercy arranged that the disbelieving disciple, in touching the wounds of his master’s body, should heal our wounds of disbelief.

Jesus wants all souls to know that, on this day, in a very special way, all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. That no soul should fear to draw near to him, even though its sins be as scarlet.

If the door or our heart is closed and locked then today is the day to abandon all caution and swing it wide open.

Jesus is standing in our midst offering us his peace, beckoning us, like Saint Thomas, to trust in him and believe.

Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of Jesus' Divine Mercy – neither in our hearts nor in the world – and God knows we need his peace in the world today more than ever.

Jesus said to Saint Thomas, "Peace be with you...be not unbelieving but believe." And Saint Thomas responded with total abandon, "My Lord and my God!"

Today let's turn our hearts to Jesus and his Divine Mercy and receive the peace that only he can give so that we too may believe and with the utmost trust exclaim, like Saint Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"

"Jesus I trust in you!"

Pope Saint Gregory the Great, Doctor of the Church, commenting on Saint Thomas' doubt has this to say. "Dearly beloved, what do you see in these events? Do you really believe that it was by chance that this chosen disciple was absent, **then came and heard, heard and doubted, doubted and touched, touched and believed?** It was not by chance but in God's providence. In a marvelous way God's mercy arranged that the disbelieving disciple, in touching the wounds of his master's body, should heal our wounds of disbelief. The disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the faith of the other disciples. As he touches Christ and is won over to belief, every doubt is cast aside and our faith is strengthened. So the disciple who doubted, then felt Christ's wounds, becomes a witness to the reality of the resurrection."