

Easter by Father Dave – (Acts 5:12 – 16; Revelation 1: 9 – 13, 17 – 19; John 20: 19 – 31)

In *Reader's Digest* a story is told of a Jim Williams of Montana. He writes: "I was driving too fast late one night when I saw the flashing lights of a police car in my rearview mirror. As I pulled over and rolled down my window of my station wagon, I tried to dream up an excuse for my haste. But when the patrolman reached the car, he said nothing. Instead, he merely shined his flashlight in my face, then on my seven-month-old son in his car seat, then on our three other children, who were asleep, and lastly on the two dogs in the very back of the car. Returning the beam of light to my face, he then uttered the only words of the encounter. 'Son,' he said, 'you can't afford a ticket. Slow down.' And with that, he returned to his car and drove away." Sometimes mercy triumphs over law. So it is for sinners who call out to Jesus.

This first Sunday after Easter is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. Why? The readings for this Sunday are all about mercy, trust and the forgiveness of sins. The opening prayer of the Mass addresses the Father as "God of Everlasting Mercy." And the Scriptural Readings illustrate mercy in action. How does God reveal His mercy? He does so, first and foremost, by sending His only-begotten Son to become our Savior and Lord by His suffering, death and Resurrection. Divine Mercy is given to us in the celebration of the Sacraments.

In the reading from Acts of the Apostles (which we will be hearing from throughout the entire Easter Season) Luke, the author, explains how the Risen Lord continued to show His Divine mercy to the sick through the healing and preaching ministry of His apostles in the early Church. The apostles' Faith enabled them to minister to the people, giving them the Lord's healing love through "signs and wonders." The Book of Revelation was written to comfort and bolster the Faith of the persecuted Christians by reassuring them of the presence of the merciful Lord in their lives. Today's selection encourages Christians to fight fear with Faith, and trepidation about the future with trust and Hope.

The Gospel selection, as we recall Jesus' appearance to the apostles on that first Easter evening, we are vividly reminded of the Sacrament of Reconciliation – the power to forgive sins which Our Lord gave to His apostles – "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Today's Gospel also emphasizes the importance of Faith in the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord of Mercy. To believe without having seen is every later Christian's experience. We are invited to receive liberation from doubts and hesitation by surrendering our lives to the Risen Lord of Mercy. Let us ask God our Father to open our hearts so that we may receive His Mercy in the form of His Holy Spirit.

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering A B C. **A** – Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world. **B** – be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and to let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us. **C** – Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

Many Thanks - to so many of you for your Easter Cards & Greetings, baked goodies, and other ways that you extended your thanks to me during this joyous season. God Bless you all for your generosity!
Fr Dave

Let us Pray for the Conversion of the World
& for Peace



Earth Day – Even though celebrated this past week on Friday, April 22, Caring for and respecting Mother Nature should not be a once a year thing. There are many ways we can show our respect and care, not only for the current generation, but a care that will benefit our children and our children's children. We can plan an outdoor ramble, we can help clean up litter – if only on our own street – to make the landscape look more attractive and welcoming z– and to prevent the litter from washing into our waterways; The website for Earthday 2022 lists 10 Activities and ideas that anyone of us can undertake: - Support our Pollinators, Clean up plastic in our neighborhood or local park (and I might add – along our walking trails), swap out our kitchen and household products, plant a tree, use wildflowers and native plants, reduce, reuse, recycle in the garden, stop pesticides and chemicals in the garden, conserve water, think about our diet, get the kids involved. Let's all lend a hand to help our planet. Go to the Earthday website for more information.

BULLETIN REFLECTION by Father Rody
APRIL 24 2022, 2ND SUN EASTER...YR C...JN 20, 19-31

23 Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them...

Today we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Sr. Maria Faustina Kuwalska from Poland in her diary recorded the immeasurable mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"I sent prophets wielding thunderbolts to My people. Today I am sending you with My mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My Merciful Heart." (Diary, 1588)

Hanging on the cross, instead of cursing them Jesus said to His Father...

LK 23, 34...*[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."]*

And the concrete realization of this passage was granted to one of the thieves crucified with him...

LK 23, 42 Then he said, **"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."** **43** He replied to him, **"Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."**

Personally, I would call that thief the first saint canonized by Jesus himself (*what a privilege!!!*) when our Lord said, **"Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."** He was really a thief by profession because even after life he was able to steal heaven.

This is what mercy is all about and God will not hesitate to grant us forgiveness just so we can share with Him the happiness in heaven which the thief requested for. May this Sunday inspire us to follow Christ in being merciful and forgiving...



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