

Divine Mercy Sunday: "My Lord and My God"/First Holy Comm.

Today's protagonist- There are many who consider Thomas as symbol of *doubt and disbelief*. There are others who understand Thomas's experience as passionate expression of his deep intimacy with the Lord.

A non-believing Thomas? We need to understand the larger picture.

1) **Jn: 11. 16-** *Let's also go and die with him.* (Courage and loyalty-at the news of the death of Lazarus, under the threat for life, other disciples preventing from going, but Thomas differs by affirming his loyalty to Jesus)

2) **Jn: 14.5-6-** *Lord, we do not know where you are going;* how can -expressing his innocence saying he is not understanding: Jesus answers him by saying: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"

3) Doubting Thomas is allowed to touch Jesus: *My Lord, my God.*

Only one who has suffered for the other, can touch his soul. The wounds of Jesus manifest the depth his love for others: No one can deny it. Those wounds help the doubting Thomas to come to faith and believe, recognizing that Jesus died for him too.

The wounds, the marks of nail on the risen body-is that which connects us to the Lord. By allowing Thomas to touch his wounds, Jesus once again confirms his love for him and shower mercy upon him. Presenting the doubting Thomas' total profession of Faith, "*My Lord and my God,*" the Gospel illustrates once again, how Jesus showed his mercy to the doubting apostle and help in confirming him in faith.

Such a deep and intimate exp. urges him to go farthest India to preach the gospel and die a martyr in AD 58. Thomas helps Jesus to make a complete definition of himself, Way-Truth-Life, Thomas makes the complete perception of who Jesus is, after resurrection.

Therefore, it is good coincidence and well fitting that this Sunday after Easter, *when we are reminded of Thomas' experience of touching Jesus's wounds, is being celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday*: It is from those wounds that the blood and water gushed out: the emergence of sacra. in the Church; the mercy and grace flowing abundantly.

Today's Gospel vividly reminds us of how Jesus instituted the sacrament of Divine Mercy, the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Risen Lord gave his apostles the power to forgive sins with the words, "*Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained*" Today let us ask the risen Lord, to open our hearts so that we may receive His Mercy; in the form of the Holy Spirit, and exclaim with Thomas, "My Lord, and my God".

Today, our children are well prepared to receive Jesus into their hearts. You are saying: "Jesus I'm opening my heart for you. I want to receive your Body and to be in Communion with you forever." Jesus chose to come to you like Bread: good and holy as bread. You are starting a day of friendship with Jesus. Thank you, children, that you invited today, for your celebration, your Parents, Grandparents, family and friends. Today, you are opening a new chapter in your lives. Why? Because Jesus, who was knocking at the door of your heart for years is receiving your answer today. "Jesus, I'm opening my heart to you. Jesus, I love you. I want to receive your Body and to be in Communion with you".

You know that the most unique way that Jesus is really present as a Person and God to us is the *Bread of Holy Communion*. And you, my beloved children, will receive this Miraculous Bread into your good hearts and you will become one in your heart with Jesus. Parents, continue to help them grow in the love of Jesus.

Congratulations, and may God Bless you.