

Divine Mercy Sunday- "My Lord and my God"

It is a joyful coincidence that the first 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 that wounds that the blood and water gushed out from the Sacred Heart of Jesus: the emergence of sacraments in the Church; the channels of God's mercy and grace.

Today's Gospel vividly reminds us of how Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the sacrament of Divine Mercy. 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"*.

There are many who consider St. Thomas as symbol of doubt and disbelief, and there are others who understand Thomas's experience as passionate expression of his deep loyalty & intimacy with the Lord.

Doubting Thomas? Verify three occasions:

1) Jn: 1. 16: *Let's also go and die with him.* (At the news of the death of Jesus, under the threat for life, other disciples preventing Jesus from going to Bethany, but Thomas shows his courage & loyalty)

2) Jn: 14.5-6: *Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can I express my innocence saying he is not understanding (I am W-T-L.)*

3) the doubting Thomas *is allowed to touch Jesus: My Lord, my God!*

There is the stubbornness that says: *that I will believe only that which I see; or whatever is visible is believable, or there is no sense in those that cannot be seen* = all these are equally dangerous. If so, Blessed are those who believe, though do not see..? *Only one who has suffered for the other, can touch his soul. The wounds of Jesus manifest the depth of his love for others: No one can deny it. Those wounds help the doubting Thomas to come to faith and believe.*

We know that parents take pride in the 'wounds' they have received for the sake of their children; the couple take pride in getting wounded for

the good of their life partner; shepherds need to feel proud of getting wounded for the sheep. Jesus reveals that it's the wounds that you take upon yourself for the other, the true path to salvation.

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 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.

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".

Thomas: who helps Jesus to make a complete definition of himself, Way-Truth-Life, Thomas makes the complete perception of who Jesus is, after resurrection. The Jewish people addressed only Yahweh with this: in N.T., Thomas is the only one who proclaims publicly Jesus to be the *Lord and God*.

ABC of DM: **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 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 our reception of the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

(Traffic cop's mercy: A priest was stopped by a police officer for over speeding. As the officer was about to write the ticket, the priest said to him, "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*" The police officer handed the priest the ticket, and said, "*Go, and sin no more.*")