

## **Divine Mercy Sunday – 04/19/2020**

Some people have the opinion that I talk too much about sin. But the Bible talks a great deal about sin and Jesus very often admonished sinners to repent and sin no more.

But just so everyone knows, I realize that sin doesn't have to be the end of the story. God's Mercy always trumps sin if we humble ourselves and ask for it. But if we refuse to acknowledge our sinfulness then sin will have the last word.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus said to Saint Faustina, "I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy...tell the whole world of My great mercy... Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy."

But if we can't see ourselves as sinners than really what use is mercy? Who needs it?

But Jesus continues, "Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation, that is, recourse to my Mercy. If they will not adore My Mercy, they will perish for all eternity."

None of us wants to perish for all eternity and certainly God does not want this for us. So how do we ask for and attain God's mercy?

Firstly, we recognize that we are sinners. And then Jesus gives us the perfect remedy to this fact.

Again in Jesus' own words to Saint Faustina, "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 [meaning today] 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."

And here is the key:

"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion [in this time] shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."

"Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet."

So how is one to take advantage of this promise with all our churches closed?

Well they do the only thing they can do. They make a perfect act of contrition – and this is of vital importance – with the intention of going to confession at their first opportunity and then they make a good spiritual communion.

God is not going to punish anyone for something that is completely out of their control.

The only way we can miss this opportunity of the total forgiveness of sin and its punishment is to doubt God's goodness.

So today, let's put all our hope in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ and never doubt God's love for us.

Saint Peter was quite clear in the second reading today when he said, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading kept in heaven for you..."

The greatness of this feast is measured by the extraordinary promises that the Lord attached to this feast: Jesus said, "Whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment."

Let no one doubt it for even a moment. Let's learn from Saint Thomas' doubt and exclaim with him, my Lord and my God and accept this day for what it is – the day of Divine Mercy.