

REFLECTION by Fr. Anthony Davis

“Let’s put the Love and Mercy of God into action”

April 19, 2020

Divine Mercy Sunday

2nd Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31



The readings for this Sunday are about God’s mercy, the necessity for trusting Faith and the need for every Christian to put these virtues of God’s forgiveness and love into action.

So, the first reading shows us how the early Church grew every day because of the acts of mercy and sharing, the sacrificial agápe love practiced by the early Christians. That is to say, they put the love and mercy of God into action, by sharing what they had with everyone in need.

Then today’s Gospel vividly reminds us of how Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as a sacrament of Divine Mercy. Thus, we can say that, the whole image of Christ, representing the “Divine Mercy”, is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God. And so by the celebration of this great feast, Christ is inviting us to “To go and do the same”, as the Good Samaritan did, in Lk 10:30-37.

Permit me to share a true story a friend told me: “Don’t we all...?”: Parked outside waiting to pick up my wife from her workplace, I saw a shabbily dressed, unkempt hair and bearded, man walking towards me in the parking Lot. Naturally, I thought he was going to solicit for a handout, as usual. Indeed, there are times when you feel generous, but sometimes too, you don’t want to be bothered. The latter was the case this time, so I thought: “I hope he doesn’t ask for some money”.

In actual fact, he didn’t! Rather after gazing in my direction for a little while, he said, “That’s a nice car”. Then I responded “thanks”. Then as the silence between us widened, something inside me—an inner voice—pushed me to ask: “Do you need any help?” I expected nothing but an outstretched hand. But this stranger spoke the three words that shook me to the marrow: “*DON’T WE ALL...?*”

Truly, I need help!! Maybe not for bus fare, or a place to sleep, but I need help! Don’t we all? No matter how much you have, no matter how much you have accomplished in life, you need help too. No matter how little you have, no matter how loaded you are with problems, even without money or a place to sleep, you can give help. Even if it’s just a compliment, you can

give that - people are waiting anxiously for a respite from daily chaos, that only you, through this torn world, can see and give.

In a nutshell, I will say that, the “Nail Marks” in Jesus’ hands, side, and feet, which he invited Thomas to touch and feel, are all around us in the lives of those walking their own “Calvarys”, especially in these difficult times. Imagine, in this way, Thomas is healed and can move from doubt to his confession of faith and proclaim: “MY LORD AND MY GOD”!

What a powerful way for us to navigate our own sufferings that we carry each day, and to be willing to place ourselves in the pain and struggle of others, and bring the joy and peace of Easter into hearts entombed in darkness of fear, pain and suffering!!! Therefore, let’s spend this lockdown period to reflect on life’s true meaning. We come and we go; but the ‘in between’ defines who we truly are, and what life is truly all about.

Mother St. Teresa presents it this way: “If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve. Only then can we put the Love of God into action.”

Remain blessed and safe!