

Divine Mercy Sunday 2020

Dear family in Christ,

A blessed Easter to all of you!! Today concludes our octave of Easter. The Church concludes this (eight-day) day with a focus upon God's mercy. We are called to enter into the Divine Mercy, not just mercy, but to keep our prayers and focus on what *Divine* Mercy means.

First and foremost is that Jesus Christ is God's Mercy, to its' fullest extent. Jesus is Mercy itself. The mercy of God is above even what our own human hearts are capable of in mercy. Divine Mercy brings with it the love of wanting to enter completely into us. We may think of mercy as merely not bringing punishment or anger upon those who deserve it. But God's Divine mercy brings with it the desire to enter completely, welcome completely, to want to be in relationship still, completely. That is what Divine mercy is.

And so, as Catholics, we have to trust completely in this truth of God's love for us in His mercy. And to never lose this in our relationship with God. Our scripture passages call us to belief, which means an entering into a truth. St. Thomas was called by Jesus to enter into truth, His truth. And to believe in that truth.

With the revelation of Jesus, our belief in what He offers, brings us closer and more fully into truth. For example, I have to believe that we landed on the moon. I was not there, and I could always be skeptical of that truth, if I choose to be, and no one could truly convince me that we landed on the moon. I could say that everything has been fake propaganda and nothing more, if I wanted. Instead, I choose to believe.

Our relationship with Christ, is not a belief of fiction. Thus, our belief allows us to enter more fully into the truth, into this reality of Jesus Christ's offering for us, into God's love for us through His merciful love in Jesus. Jesus instructs his apostle Thomas, "do not be unbelieving, but believe." And, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

It is only through belief that we enter more deeply into the truth of God's love for us in His Church, that He established upon earth for us, to increase our faith and belief, and thus increase our entering into His truth. When I am celebrating Mass alone, I have to believe that I am celebrating Mass with all of those who have celebrated the Mass throughout the day, and throughout the centuries, whether in the Church proper, or at home, in this time that we are going through. And now, through my belief, I enter more deeply into the reality that all Masses are united to the one offering of Jesus Christ.

I want to thank you all for your prayers for one another, for continuing to offer the Mass with me, for continuing to support your Church family by sending in your donations. I am doing well, and missing your presence greatly. I continue to offer my daily Mass for you all.

In God's mercy,

Fr. Rosenbaum.

