

The Second Sunday of Easter is called the Divine Mercy Sunday at the request that Jesus addressed to St. Faustina to celebrate the endless mercy with which He loved and redeemed us all. In the Gospel of today, we see very well the theme of Divine Mercy. When Jesus appeared to His disciples, He instituted the sacrament of reconciliation. He said "As the Father has sent me, so I send you, Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." And He showed them the mark of the nails in his hands and his side, the signs of the Passion. He said to St. Faustina "My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy". We also want to glorify and experience God's infinite Mercy in the sacrament of Confession and confessing like the Apostle Thomas "My Lord and My God".

People search for so many things that can satisfy their lives. For that, sometimes many people skip attending regular Sunday mass. They have doubt or crisis of faith. They doubt whether the answer to their existential questions can be found within the four walls of the church. So they choose to spend time in social service, in work, entertainment and in intellectual pursuit rather than in church worship. We find a similar incident in today's gospel about Jesus appearing to his disciples. "On the evening of the first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them". The disciples gathered together on Sunday, the first day of the week. Since the disciples were Jews, they would attend synagogue services on the Sabbath. Jesus appeared to them as he had promised them: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them". Sunday is the day of the Lord, the day of worship, the day Christ comes to meet His people and strengthen them in faith. So when all the disciples were gathered for Sunday service, Thomas was not there. Where was Thomas? We can see that Thomas is like one of these modern-day Christians who skip Sunday worship and search for something else in their lives. Such people miss when Jesus comes to meet them. As a result, they remain in their doubts and crisis of faith. Initially all the disciples had their doubts. But when they encountered with the risen Lord, their doubt was transformed into faith and their fear was changed in peace. Thomas missed that experience. But when the other apostles told Thomas "we have seen the Lord", he decided to remain for the Sunday gathering of believers to see the Lord. The gospel reading continues, "A week later [i.e. the following Sunday] his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came and stood among them. This time Thomas had his own share of the resurrection experience. Immediately his doubt changed into faith and he fell down and worshiped, saying, "My Lord and my God!"

Now let us ask ourselves, What if Thomas had stayed away from church saying, "Prove it! Prove it to me that Jesus is risen and then I will come," would it be possible to prove it to him by arguments alone? Sometimes the best argument you can give to someone who is in doubt and who

does not believe is a sentence in three words: “Come and see.” As Jesus told His disciples “ come and see” He also tells us. He assures us of His peace. Let us come to meet the Lord present in His word and the Eucharist and among us and experience His peace and mercy. Let us allow Him speak to us and touch our hearts and increase our faith that we may believe in Him always.