

Easter Octave Sunday Divine Mercy Sunday  
19 April 2020  
Saint Marcus Saint Lawrence

## *The Glory of Mercy*

It is quite a wonder to sit and think about not only Jesus, his resurrection, and glorification, but also to reflect upon how he interacts especially with his apostles after these events. Keep in mind that Peter had denied Jesus, and all except John had abandon Jesus in his darkest hour. Jesus then comes to them on the first day of the week and appears to them and gives them the great gift of the Holy Spirit and his power to forgive sins. Again, he comes seven days later to be with them when Thomas is present. Thomas often gets the bad rap for being the doubter. Maybe rightly so because he verbalizes his doubt. However, each of the Apostles have had their doubts about Jesus as was evident by their abandoning him. During his agony in the Garden, He tries to rouse their souls, “Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test.” (Matt 26:41) In His Glorified State notice how he treats the Apostles: he is generous, he gives them the Holy Spirit. At times he does chastise them for their unbelief. Yet he never is presumptuous with them. Jesus is merciful toward them realizing how new this is for the apostles that He is now glorified and they have never experienced anything like this before. Even so, He draws near to them and shares His glorified power through the Holy Spirit with them! This of course is the great mercy which Jesus shows Thomas individually in the midst of his doubts, the same Thomas who has found a sort of bold skepticism and unabashedly proclaimed it! He acts almost like the proverbial wise guy who clearly knows that things outside the box just aren’t possible! Oh, how we as human beings can be like him sometimes. However, Jesus invites Thomas into His glorified being and even in the invitation Thomas encounters Jesus Glorified and exclaims his great profession of faith, “My Lord and my God.” The point to all of this is Jesus reveals what mercy really looks like. These eleven weak, broken, worldly ambitious human beings to whom he could have said, “See I told ya so, why didn’t you get it!” No, he comes to be with them and gently chastises their unbelief in some cases, but he lets his body that was broken and wounded now glorified speak for itself. He then gives them the gift of his Holy Spirit. This is true Mercy! Mercy is not looking the other way with wrongs. Mercy is overcoming wrongs with glorious power and generosity. The resurrection stories especially from St John’s Gospel can be especially powerful for us if we are willing to open our imagination to Jesus. He may not come right away. But if we desire to encounter what the apostles did those first Easter days, Jesus will come and he will be with us in

his glorious resurrected body. We may not be able to experience it physically for now. Yet the Lord desires to be with us just as he did with his apostles. May we open our hearts and imaginations so that with the eleven, and with Thomas, we may begin to experience Jesus and His glorified body and His glorified wounds! Happy Easter!!!