

## Divine Mercy Sunday2018

My beloved brothers and sisters, every single one of the Apostles, the closest friends of Jesus, were miserable failures. Every single one of them, in His hour of need, ran away from Him and abandoned Him; however, we must not imagine that they were evil men, any more than you and I are evil people. Every single one of us is fatally flawed; we bear the agony of sinful reality in our very persons- but that is why Jesus came, and that is why He remains among us in His Resurrected Person, and that is why the very first words of His mouth when He stood amongst the Apostles and Disciples on the Day of Resurrection, were: "Shaloom", the Hebrew greeting that means The Peace and Blessings that only God can give! Immediately he shows them His wounds. Why would He do that, to rub their noses into the fact that they deserted Him? By no means! Rather, He demonstrates to them and to us, that in His Glorified and Resurrected Body, His wounds remain as open doors to His Divine Mercy- that is why He came in the flesh from the right hand side of God!

Thomas, who was not among them at this first Resurrection appearance, is incredulous; but he is no different than the rest of them- they all respond with incredulity, again and again- this seems to be too good to be true. And yet, it is!

The world in which we live, that believes it is too sophisticated for the Supernatural, simply ridicules us for our insistence upon the Resurrection- that it is real. And yet, countless sources and even the newest research on the Sidonium, the Shroud and the clothes that wiped the face of Jesus, the Byssum and the napkin which covered His face, tell us in this unbelieving time, that Great Good News- Christ is Risen from the Dead, trampling down death by His own Death! And His Wounds remain now as open fountains inexhaustible in Divine Mercy!

My beloved brothers and sister, sin is so impossible, so systemic within us, that it is not just a single action contrary to the will of God; rather, it is an infection which reaches into the very being of men and women, into the very fabric of God's world, and only a force greater than sin and death from outside our world, only God's infinite Divine Mercy made visible in the Flesh in Jesus, can come into

the reality damaged by sin and death and heal it! Jesus, Glorified Lord, Risen from the Dead, mercy made visible, has come freshly Risen from the Dead, Victorious over sin and death, and stands in our midst, in our objective sinfulness, in our doubts, and says to us: "Cease your unbelieving and begin to believe! Blessed are those who have not seen and believe!" Our response to this infinite Mercy made visible must be the same as Thomas: My Lord and My God! Here, in Jesus is made visible to us, the very reality of Heaven! So too, like these Apostles, we must struggle time and again to believe- "Blessed are those who have not seen and believed!"