

Brothers and Sisters,

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. Pope St. John Paul II decreed in 2000 that the second Sunday of Easter will be known as the feast of the Divine Mercy for the universal Church. This feast is fitting because it concludes the Easter Octave.

As we celebrate this feast, we not only experience God's Divine Mercy, but we need to live it out in our lives by radiating mercy and love in all that we do and speak. But how do we accomplish this in a society where the fabric of civility has significantly frayed in recent years? It starts with recognizing the dignity of all people, that they have been created in the image of God. As such, we are not only called to be civil, but to express love and mercy toward others. St. Paul writes "...God proves his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). And if God gives us this undeserved love (who have been created in his image), then we too must have that same love for others.

To help us truly be people who live out God's mercy in our lives we need to have a devotion to the Divine Mercy. To do this, we turn to St. Faustina who is known as the apostle of Divine Mercy. Jesus revealed through private revelations to St. Faustina God's unfathomable love and mercy for all people. And she recorded these revelations in her diary so that all may know God's Divine Mercy. In these revelations, she was instructed on how to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, given details for the image of the Divine Mercy with the words "Jesus I Trust in You!", and for the Church to establish a feast of Divine Mercy on the Second Sunday of Easter.

Through St. Faustina, we have been given not only knowledge of God's Divine Mercy, but practical ways to be devoted to his Divine Mercy. And by having this devotion, it truly gives us the graces needed to radiate God's love and mercy to a world in such need of it. I encourage you to take part in the events planned at OLR for this Divine Mercy Sunday and to visit the Lower Church where there is a shrine dedicated to the Divine Mercy. Finally, consider praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet after daily Mass that is led by members of the Divine Mercy Cenacle.

Deacon Mike Bannio