**Divine Mercy Sunday, Cycle. C. 2025.**

The Second Sunday of Easter is called “**Divine Mercy Su**nday”. Why do we celebrate a feast for Gods’ mercy? Because, God is so merciful and **mercy is His second** name. He is merciful to the sinners and saints alike. So let us celebrate this feast of mercy by being **overly generous with c**ompassion- even to people who don’t deserve it.

The 8th day of Easter had a powerful significance from the earliest days of Christianity. This Sunday was designated as “Dominica in albis- the Church in white albs- referring to the **presence of the newly baptized individuals in white albs in the Church.** This was the day once again that the believers came together, and John’s account of the risen Lords’ appearance to the eleven was always proclaimed.

**The story is simple**. Thomas was absent that Easter evening when the Risen Jesus appeared to the disciples, and he would not accept their testimony but insisted on touching Jesus himself. However, just at the sight of Jesus a week later was enough for Thomas to believe in the Risen Lord.

**As the world is full of doubters and unbelievers, this Gospel is aimed at todays’ Rea**ders and listeners, and we are reminded that we all have Thomas Syndrome or doubting mentality of Thomas. Thomas was a faithful disciple; still, he doubted the news about the risen Lord. **Is it a weakness to have doubts about God or faith**? At one point or another in our life we all got through the Thomas syndrome. Thomas Merton says, ***“The man of faith who has never experienced doubt is not a man of faith***”. Doubt can be a growing point, a stepping stone to a deeper understanding. Thomas doubted in order to become sure.

On a Saturday night, around 10.00 PM, **the Pastor of a Parish- the Almighty God Parish**- was trying to call his friend, but his friend did not answer the phone. The Pastor let it ring many times. He thought it was odd that his friend would not answer while he was sure he was at home. He tried to call again after a few minutes and his friend answered right away. He asked why he had not answer before, and the latter said the the phone hadn’t rung. They brushed it off any away and continued with their chat. The **following Monday, the Pastor** received a call. The man that he spoke with wanted to know why he had called him, on Saturday night. The Pastor couldn’t figure out what the guy was talking about. Then the man said, “***it rang and rang, but I didn’t answer”.*** Then the Pastor remembered and apologized for disturbing him, explaining that he had intended to call his friend. The man said, “***That’s’ oka***y”. Let me tell you my story. You see, “I was planning to commit suicide on Saturday night, but before I did, I prayed, “***God, if you are there, and you don’t want me to do this, give me a sign now***”. At that point my phone started to ring… I looked at the caller ID, and it said, “**Almighty God**”, I was afraid to answer”.

**When we doubt Gods’ love and ask for signs and confirmation, He does not abandon us**. When crisis came like when we lost our loved ones, we have terrible illness, our marriage is on the edge of a break up, we lost our job or we get into an accident, we tend to blame God and enter into a period of doubt, instead of hiding our doubts, we must do what **Thomas did-bring those doubts to the Lor**d. When there is a crisis of faith, turn to the Lord, instead of abandoning Him. **The Lord will transform our doubts into beliefs.**