**Homily for the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, as we continue to celebrate the joy of the Easter season, we also gather to celebrate the Divine Mercy Sunday. On this day, we reflect on the boundless Mercy of God-a mercy that forgives, heals, and renews us, drawing us into the heart of His love.

The Gospel reading for today presents us with the story of Jesus’ apparition to His disciples after His Resurrection. The disciples are gathered in fear behind locked doors when Jesus comes to them, saying, "Peace be with you." He shows them His hands and side, reassuring them that He is truly risen. His presence brings peace and joy, transforming their fear into faith.

The encounter between Jesus and Thomas is particularly powerful. Thomas, doubting the testimony of the other disciples, insists, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger in the nail marks, and put my hand in His side, I will not believe." When Jesus appears again and invites Thomas to touch His wounds, Thomas responds with a profound profession of faith: "My Lord and my God!" Jesus then says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

This Gospel invites us to reflect on our own faith. Like Thomas, we may have moments of doubt or uncertainty. Yet, Jesus meets us in our doubts, offering us His peace and inviting us to trust and believe in Him. Divine Mercy Sunday reminds us that God’s Mercy is greater than our weaknesses, our fears, and our failures, it is greater than our doubts. His mercy is a gift that renews us and enables us to grow in faith and hope.

The message of Divine Mercy calls us to trust in the love of God love and share that Mercy with others. Jesus’ words, "Peace be with you," are not only a comfort; they are a mission. He sends His disciples into the world to bring His peace and forgiveness to others. As followers of Christ, we are called to be ambassadors of His Mercy, extending compassion, understanding, and forgiveness to those around us.

Today, as we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, we also rejoice with the children who will receive their First Communion. This is a moment of great joy for them and for our entire community. Through the Eucharist, they encounter the living presence of Jesus and are drawn closer to His love and mercy. Let us celebrate their journey of faith and encourage them to continue growing in their relationship with Christ.

Loving and merciful God, we thank You for the gift of Your Divine Mercy, which renews and sustains us. We pray for the children who receive their First Communion today-may their hearts be filled with Your love and grace. Strengthen them in faith, and guide them as they grow in their relationship with You.

Let us also pray for our entire community that we may be instruments of God’s Mercy, sharing His peace and compassion with all we encounter. May God’s grace transform us, and may we always trust in His infinite love.