

## *A Divine Mercy Miracle*

For a month now, I have been celebrating a private Mass in our *Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels* at about 4:30 am. As I walk across the parking lot to get to the church, I pray. Lately, the Holy Spirit is teaching me new ways to pray. At that time in the morning, the birds are usually chirping away, greeting the day.

Often I have prayed: *“Birds of the Lord, bless the Lord; give honor and glory to the Father forever.”* Sometimes it seems like they are chirping louder! Well, on Divine Mercy Sunday, I prayed in a different way. I said: *“I lend you my voice (speaking to the chirping birds) to love, to adore, to bless and to give thanks to the Father in heaven.”* Then I envisioned all of the chirping, putting a smile on the Father’s Face giving Him Glory!

As I continued my morning, I was preparing for my Healing Mass scheduled for 3 pm in the afternoon. This would be a first for me. I would be live-streaming the Mass and healing prayer. I was joking with someone that I usually pray over a 100 or so people for over 3 hours; but today, I will be praying over many more people all at once in a short span of 15 minutes or so through a camera!

At one point, as I said my healing prayer, I asked forgiveness from anyone watching that I may have offended. I too needed to practice mercy if I wanted Jesus to shower me with His Mercy. It was an emotional moment for me, reminding the

faithful that when we *'get back to normal living'* approach me so I can ask forgiveness in person.

Little did I know that there would be a special guest listening! One of our parishioners has a bird named *Pepper*. This parishioner was participating in the live-stream Mass and so it seems his bird, too. A few hours later (after the Mass), he emailed me, sharing some thoughts with me.

One of the things that he shared had to do with his bird. At the moment I began to ask for forgiveness for myself, *Pepper* began singing at the top of his lungs! He continued to sing until I ended my own prayer seeking forgiveness.

It did not hit me until the next morning what had happened. On Divine Mercy Sunday, I LENT MY VOICE to the birds. I THINK *PEPPER*, WHO IS ONE OF GOD'S BEAUTIFUL CREATIONS WAS DOING WHAT I SAID FOR THE BIRDS TO DO! HE WAS PRAISING GOD'S MERCY AS I ASKED FOR FORGIVENESS!

By now, you probably think that this priest is going crazy! All that social distancing and isolation time is making him go cuckoo! But do you see how the Holy Spirit works in our lives! The birds speak for us and with us if we just lend them our voices to glorify the Father Who created them!

*Pepper* was tuned in to my healing prayer, and he heard MY VOICE. He probably was saying to the Lord: *"This priest needs lots of mercy. Please give it to him!"*

## *A Teaching From Scripture*

On April 7<sup>th</sup> in the morning (12 days before Divine Mercy Sunday), I asked Jesus if He had anything that He would like to say to me. I opened my bible at random, moved my finger over the scripture, and here is what He said:

“Psalm 8 reflects on the original vocation of man to stand above all of creation as its ruler and steward.”

(This came from a footnote: [NAB] 1Corinthians 15: 25-27).

So now I am typing psalm 8:

### ***Divine Majesty and Human Dignity***

“O Lord, our Lord,  
How awesome is your name through all the earth!  
You have set your majesty above the heavens!  
Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
You have drawn a defense against your foes,  
To silence enemy and avenger.”

“When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
The moon and the stars that you set in place—  
What are humans that you are mindful of them,  
Mere mortals that you care for them?  
Yet you have made them little less than a god,  
Crowned them with glory and honor.”

“You have given them rule over the works of your hands,  
Put all things at their feet:  
All sheep and oxen,  
Even the beasts of the field,  
***The birds of the air***, the fish of the sea,  
And whatever swims the paths of the seas.”

“O Lord, our Lord,  
How awesome is your name through all the earth!”

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*I will let God's words speak for themselves. The Holy Spirit is teaching new wonders of who we are and how to voice our praise in prayer!*

*Father David Tourville*

*May it be for the Glory of God and the salvation of souls!*

