

Reflections from the Upper Room:

for the Pastoral Musician

Today we launch this series of reflections that will be offered throughout the Easter season including Sundays and Ascension Thursday, concluding on the Solemnity of Pentecost. Each reflection will be offered by a pastoral musician of the Diocese of Metuchen.

Bill Berg is a highly respected musician, liturgist and teacher always looking for ways to inspire his choir members, parish community, colleagues, and all to a deepening faith. We are grateful to Bill for offering this first reflection in this series.

Please help spread the word about these reflections to your family, friends, liturgical musicians, and entire parish community.

Thomas DeLessio

Diocesan Coordinator for Liturgical Music

Director of Music, St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Reflections for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

**By: *William R. Berg, Director of Music, St. Augustine of
Canterbury, Kendall Park, and Organist, Diocesan Festival Choir***



Today is the eighth day of Easter; the Octave of Easter. In 2001 Pope (now Saint) John Paul II instituted the octave of Easter to be called “Divine Mercy Sunday”. The apparition or vision of Divine Mercy was first seen by Sr.(now Saint) Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun from Krakow Poland. The first time St. Faustina saw the vision was on the octave of Easter in April of 1935. The image has blue and red rays coming out of Jesus’ sacred heart. This is similar to the water and blood coming out of the side of Jesus at His crucifixion. The blue (water) stands for Baptism, and the red (blood) stands for the Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. The words of St. Faustina “Jesus, I trust in You” are depicted also on the image. St. John Paul II canonized St. Faustina on the Octave of Easter in April of 2000. The following year he instituted the feast of Divine Mercy to be celebrated world wide in April of 2001. Pope John Paul II died on the eve of Divine Mercy. He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on the Feast of Divine Mercy in 2011 and canonized a Saint on the feast of Divine Mercy by Pope Francis in 2014.

In today’s scripture we hear the familiar account of Jesus appearing to His disciples the week after the Resurrection. Thomas was with the disciples this time. Thomas doubts the apostle’s word that Jesus truly was raised from the dead. Jesus appears and tells Thomas to touch His hands, feet and put his hand in Jesus’ side. Do not persist in your unbelief but believe. Thomas believes and Jesus says blessed are those who have not seen but believe. That is us. We have not seen Jesus physically as the apostles did, but we see Him working in our world today through the health care workers, the first responders and essential workers. We thank them for answering the call to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world today. The music chosen is the hymn “Ye Sons and Daughters” (Latin O Filii et Filiae). This hymn dates back to the 15th century. Also included is a modern day hymn “We Walk By Faith” by Marty Haugen. As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter we sing Alleluia, as we walk by faith and not by sight.

God’s Peace and Love,

William Berg

Selected Reflection Music

Ye Sons and Daughters (O Filii et Filiae)

By: Franciscan friar Jean Tisserand

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1loWgxxJ7U>

We Walk by Faith

By: Marty Haugen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbe3bpi_9Pg