

**"Let us give thanks to the Lord because he is good"  
(Acts 4: 32-35).**

Several decades ago, Saint Pope **John Paul II** introduced the feast of Sunday for the second Sunday of **Divine Mercy**. However, as our pope, Pope Francis, tells us "God is Mercy" and his mercy is eternal. With the joy of the Risen Christ, let us allow ourselves to be embraced by the mercy of God that is stronger than our weaknesses, disappointments and sin. Divine Mercy always seeks to reconcile us with the Lord who gave us salvation through his death and resurrection.

**Saint Ignatius** wants that when we experience the Paschal of Jesus: "**we rejoice and enjoy intensely so much joy and happiness in the Risen Christ.**" The Church does so throughout this Easter season in which She never ceases to repeat that Christ once risen no longer dies. The constant appearances of the Risen One want to be for the disciples a light that clears the darkness that his death on the cross produced. For Saint Ignatius, the Risen Jesus is a comforter since he allows himself to be touched by the Magdalene, walks with the disciples of Emmaus, and brings peace to the apostles.

Today's Gospel tells us that eight days after the resurrection and when the disciples were reunited with "**Doubtful**" **Thomas**, Jesus showed him the signs of his Passion. We already know that Thomas was a braggart and yet the mercy of Jesus pleases even the whims of Thomas who goes from being an unbeliever to a believer. Tradition tells us that when he saw and touched the wounds of Jesus, he exclaimed "**My Lord and my God.**" Today "let us thank the Lord because he is good" and with the joy of the Risen Christ let us also say "**my Lord and my God.**"

No less important than the appearance to the disciples is the power of the **Holy Spirit** that the Risen Jesus gives to his Apostles. In effect, Jesus tells them "**whoever forgives their sins, they will be forgiven.**" On this

Sunday of Divine Mercy let us remember that we have received the Spirit of Jesus at the moment of our baptism and that therefore we are called to be the community of believers who perform gestures of mercy. Some of us will have to show mercy even to those who deserve to be punished. Let us ask for the strength of the Risen Jesus to bring mercy as did the loving father in the parable of the prodigal son, the mercy he lavished on the adulterous woman or the forgiveness he gave to repentant Peter. Perhaps our focus as believers in the Jesus of Mercy will lead us to empathize with those who have yet to give up hope of forgiving themselves. Let us remember that without mercy all will be lost. **Through your sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

**Fr. Hernán, SJ**  
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*“Christ wants the Resurrection to break all the barriers that enclose us in our sterile pessimisms, in our calculated conceptual worlds that distance us from life, in our obsessed searches for security and in excessive ambitions capable of playing with the dignity of others” (Pope Francis).*