

After that first Easter morning, the disciples lives did not change right away. In fact, much like us today, a week later they still found themselves locked away in the Upper Room surrounded by a contagion of fear. Then, the Risen Lord broke through the walls surrounding them and said, “Peace be with you.” Christ did not want them to live in fear. He wanted to replace the contagion of fear in their lives with a contagion of peace.

The disciples are only able to accept this peace into their lives, however, if they begin to trust in Jesus. They had to both know and believe that there was nothing at all in this world that needed to be feared anymore because Christ had defeated death. Instead, they only needed to entrust themselves to His will and He would protect them from all things. As the Apostle Paul said so beautifully in his letter to the Romans, “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor present things nor future things, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

For this reason, I think it is fitting that we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday today. God wants to take away the fears in our lives and replace them with peace, but He can only do this if we first trust in Him. I am sure that many of you are familiar with the image of the Divine Mercy. If not, please take time to look it up and reflect on it. In this image we see Christ touching His Sacred Heart from which flows forth living streams of blood and water, representing the fountain of mercy that was opened when His Sacred Heart was pierced by a lance. And under this image of the fount of mercy are written a few simple words, “Jesus I trust in you.”

This devotion is accompanied by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy which is prayed using rosary beads. While I won’t explain how to pray the entire chaplet, I think it is worth reflecting on some of the prayers used within it. The Chaplet can be opened

by praying, “O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!” On each major bead we pray, “Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly Beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.” On the minor beads we pray, “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.” Finally, the Chaplet is concluded by praying, “Holy God, Holy Might One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.” Taken altogether, the Chaplet calls upon us to fully place our trust in Christ’s mercy which was offered to us from the Cross.

“Jesus, I trust in You.” These are powerful words, words that should constantly be on our lips, especially during the trials of our lives. As we allow these words to slowly sink into our hearts, they can become for us a source of peace. It was this bottomless trust in the mercy of Christ that allowed the Apostle Peter to profess in today’s letter, “In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith... may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

When we finally place our trust in Jesus, we no longer have to fear the trials of this life because we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Instead, these trials only serve to purify us as gold is tested in fire and prepare us for Heaven. There is nothing left to fear for even death itself has been conquered and only serves to bring us to our true heavenly homeland.

As we pass through these days of trial, we should begin to regularly pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet so that our trust in God might be strengthened and the contagion of fear in our lives is replaced with a contagion of peace as He breaks through the walls in our lives, appearing in our midst saying, “Peace be with you!”