

Sunday of the Divine Mercy Domingo de la Divina Misericordia Abril/ April 28, 2019

Mass Intentions Intenciones de la Misa

Saturday/Sabado 04/27	9:00am	All victims of abuse
Saturday/Sabado 04/27	5:30pm	Alfonzo De La Torre+ & fam. Anaya y fam. De La Torre
Sunday/Domingo 04/28	7:00am	Fidelia Olea+
	9:00am	Herminia Canchola+
	11:00am	Mario Galetto+
	1:00pm	Fidelia Olea+ Herosimo Tapia
	7:00pm	Our Funeral Ministry Volunteers
Monday/Lunes 04/29	9:00am	Jose Buenrostro
Tuesday/Martes 04/30	9:00am	Mario Galetto+
	8:00pm	Fidelia Olea+
Wed/Miércoles 05/01	9:00am	Valentin Carrillo Jr.
Thursday/Jueves 05/02	9:00am	Fidelia Olea+
Friday/Viernes 05/03	9:00am	Lorenzo & Bertha Arellano
Saturday/Sabado 05/04	9:00am	Ma. Guadalupe Sedano+
Saturday/Sabado 05/04	5:30pm	Pro-Populo

Prayer Requests/Solicitud de Oraciones

Isabel & Martin Lopez, Harry Sanders, Mark Bruce, Clay Van Artsdalen, Pat Hayes, Susan Motley, Maureen Holden, Toni Seeley, Gary LaFountain, Thea Dolan, Natalie LaFountain, Carson Pfoesich, Anne Calvillo, John Ridge, Chris Shimada, Pat Mottard, Julio Andrés Aquino, Don LaBash, Angela Marie Solís, Karen D'Ambrogi, Bill Gray, Ernesto Manuyag, Fox, Mario Vera, Roslyn Brown, Paul Finn, Eric Jenson, Jaime Paniagua, Jacob Dyer, Al & Cleo Konhoff, Bernie Schneider, Joan Gatley, Amie Lands, The Hermogenes Fam. , Phil Dion, Sylvia Jaynes, Marcia Falsarella, Quy Ta, Jim Colter, Giang Dao, Phiyen Ta,

Finances

Last weekend/fin de la semana pasada \$7,870.00
Last year/El año pasado \$7,998.00
Thank you for your support and may God bless you abundantly! Gracias por su apoyo y Dios les bendiga mucho!

SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 4TH AND 5TH

It was suggested to us that it would be a good idea to enter a little blurb in the bulletin the weekend before we take up a Second Collection, in order for you, our parishioners, to be aware and come prepared for such petition. This coming weekend the Second Collection will benefit the "The Catholic Home Missions". This National Collection also helps our Diocese since these funds stay here in our country and we are considered to be a Home Mission in the USA.

"On the Dignity of Life-Our Church in Our Community."

Our parishioners face many daily challenges from the high cost of housing to fears about climate change with fires and floods, to concerns over immigration policies, etc. This workshop will help parishioners deepen their understanding of Church teachings and develop positive actions on issues such as homelessness, reducing violence and other local issues.

The workshop dates are Monday, May 13 at St. Rose 7PM, Thursday, May 16 at Resurrection 7PM) Preregister at amatothompson@gmail.com

Fires and Floods! Climate Change!

What does our church teach us about issues facing our community? Our Church has wonderful teaching to help us strengthen our values and act positively to better our society. Deacon John Storm, the Diocesan Restorative Justice Administrator, and Tom Amato, a former Maryknoll Lay Missioner, will present a workshop: "On the Dignity of Life-Our Church in Our Community" to spark prayer and action.

Monday, May 13 at St. Rose 7, Thursday, May 16 at Resurrection 7 PM-9 PM. Preregister at amatothompson@gmail.com

Immigration Crisis! Housing Crisis!

Our Church has some wonderful teaching to help families strengthen their values and act positively to better our society. This workshop is designed to help parishioners deepen their understanding of Church teachings and develop positive actions on issues such as homelessness, reducing violence and other local issues.

"On the Dignity of Life-Our Church in Our Community" will be presented three times Monday, May 13 at St. Rose 7; Thursday, May 16 at Resurrection 7 PM. Preregister at amatothompson@gmail.com

GEOFF WOOD

Will be here on Wednesday morning, May the 1st.
The session is from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m.
Come and bring a friend!

SEGUNDA COLECTA PARA EL FIN DE SEMANA DEL 4 Y 5 DE MAYO

Se nos sugirió que sería una Buena idea que hiciéramos un pequeño anuncio cuando fuera a haber alguna segunda colecta en la semana que seguiría, para que ustedes nuestros Parroquianos vieran preparados. Este fin de semana del 4 y 5 de Mayo estamos teniendo una segunda colecta que beneficiara a las "Misiones Catolicas Locales". Esta Colecta Nacional ayuda a las Diocesis de los Estados Unidos y beneficia a nuestra Diocesis porque nuestra Diocesis es considerada como una Diocesis en Mision, o sea que nosotros recibimos fondo de esta Segunda Colecta Nacional.

SOWERS OF HOPE

A few days ago, Pope Benedict XVI visited a youth prison in the city of Rome, and during Mass he spoke to the young people about the mercy of God. "Jesus loves you and forgives you. He is your Father and waits for you with open arms," he told them. This event will help us to understand better the central message of today's feast of Divine Mercy.

Dear Friends: Let us free ourselves from this terrible experience of imprisonment! The worst nightmare for someone is to be held a prisoner; you can't get out, you can't speak, you can't work, you can't be with your loved ones. This punishment is terribly humiliating. For this reason, *the best dream one can have is getting back his freedom. The dream of St. Thomas, prisoner of his doubts of faith, becomes real when the risen Christ frees him from that slavery.*

1. *How many people, desiring freedom, end up becoming slaves!* In our "civilized" countries, the prison bars are called drugs, the requirements of success, economic ambition. These chains are binding, un-forgiving. They say that God always forgives, men sometimes forgive, but nature never does. It's lucky that the judge of our lives will not be nature, or men, but our merciful God.

2. *The risen Christ comes to free us from sin* today. They say that once a child walked out of the confessional and bumped in to God the Father in the aisle, and asked him. "Hey God, isn't it true that you know all my sins?" "Yes" he answered. "Then tell them to me," said the child. God answered: "I don't remember them any more." God, once he has forgiven us, also forgets about our sins. This assurance is what makes the believer different from the non-believer. He knows that he is loved and forgiven. In all his acts he has the guarantee of strength that can only come from the love of God.

3. Jesus gave the apostles and priests the power to free all people: *"Whoever's sins you forgive, they shall be forgiven."* Through the sacrament of Confession, God frees us from sin and from Hell. As Christians, we should be coherent; by Christ's resurrection, we were made free. So we have the duty of being *sowers of peace* to free our neighbor from sin, from doubts, from slavery and fear.

Make your choice! May this be the week you have your Easter-time Confession as the Commandment of the Church asks of us. *Only God can forgive your sins*, and he does it through the priest. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. And hopefully you will continue going to Confession frequently, rather than waiting until next Easter to purify your soul and live in the freedom of the children of God. What a great example this would be for your children! God bless you, Fr. Oscar

SEMBRADORES DE ESPERANZA

Hace pocos días el Papa Benedicto XVI visitó la cárcel de menores de la ciudad de Roma y durante la Misa les habló a los muchachos de la misericordia de Dios. "Jesús te ama y te perdona. Él es tu Padre y te espera con los brazos abiertos", les dijo. Este episodio nos ayudará a entender mejor el mensaje central de la fiesta que hoy celebramos de la Divina Misericordia.

Hermanos: Partamos de esa experiencia terrible que es una cárcel! La peor pesadilla para cualquier hombre libre es la de quedar preso: No puedes salir, no puedes hablar, no puedes trabajar, no puedes estar con los tuyos. Te humilla y te mata el castigo. Por eso también, *el mejor sueño que puede tener es el de recuperar la libertad. El sueño de Santo Tomás, prisionero de sus dudas de fe, se hace realidad cuando Cristo resucitado lo libera de esa esclavitud.*

1. *¡Cuántos, buscando la libertad, se hacen esclavos!* En nuestros países "civilizados", los barrotes de la celda se llaman droga, exigencias del éxito, ambición económica. Son cadenas que atan y que no perdonan. Dicen que Dios perdona siempre, que los hombres a veces y que la naturaleza nunca. Menos mal que el juez de nuestra vida no será ni la naturaleza, ni los hombres, sino Dios misericordioso

2. *Cristo resucitado viene hoy a liberarnos del pecado.* Cuentan que una vez un niño salió del confesionario y se encontró con Dios Padre que caminaba por el pasillo de la Iglesia y le preguntó: "Oye Dios, ¿es verdad que tú conoces todos mis pecados?" "Sí, respondió" "Dímelos, dijo el niño" y Dios respondió: "Ya no los recuerdo". Dios, al perdonarnos, también se olvida de nuestros pecados. Esta seguridad es la que hace que el creyente sea diferente del que no cree. Se siente amado y perdonado. Actúa siempre con la garantía que sólo puede dar la fuerza del amor de Dios.

3. Jesús regaló a los apóstoles y a los sacerdotes el poder de hacer libres a todos los hombres: *"A quienes les perdonéis los pecados les serán perdonados"*. Por el sacramento de la confesión Dios nos libra del pecado y del infierno. Los cristianos debemos ser coherentes; por la resurrección de Cristo fuimos salvados. Estamos obligados a ser *sembradores de esperanza* para liberar a nuestros hermanos del pecado, de sus dudas, de sus esclavitudes y temores.

¡Decídetes! Que no pase esta semana sin que hagas tu confesión pascual como pide el mandamiento de la Iglesia. *Sólo Dios puede perdonarte tus pecados*, y lo hace a través del sacerdote. No dejes pasar la oportunidad. Y ojalá sigas confesándote con frecuencia sin esperar hasta la otra Pascua para purificar tu alma y vivir en la libertad de los hijos de Dios. ¡Qué buen ejemplo puedes dar a tus hijos/as! Dios les bendiga, P. Oscar

THE FEAST OF MERCY (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Among all of the elements of devotion to The Divine Mercy requested by our Lord through Sr. Faustina, the Feast of Mercy holds first place. The Lord's will with regard to its establishment was already made known in His first revelation to the saint. In all, there were 14 revelations concerning the desired feast.

Once after insisting, "Do all you possibly can for this work of mercy," Jesus added: "My Heart rejoices on account of this feast." Sister Faustina concluded: "After these words, I understood that nothing can dispense me from the obligation which the Lord demands of me" (*Diary*, 998).

Our Lord's explicit desire is that this feast be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. He joins the feast to the designated Sunday in eight revelations: *Diary*, 49, 88, 280, 299, 341, 570, 699, and 742. He also implies a connection between the feast and that Sunday on some other occasions recorded in the saint's *Diary* (see *Diary*, 420, 89).

The "First Sunday *after* Easter" □ which is designated in "The Liturgy of the Hours and the Celebration of the Eucharist" as the "Octave Day of Easter" □ was officially called the *Second Sunday of Easter* after the liturgical reform of Vatican II. Now, by the Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the name of this liturgical day has been changed to: "*Second Sunday of Easter, or of Divine Mercy.*" Pope John Paul II made the surprise announcement of this change in his homily at the canonization of Sr. Faustina on April 30, 2000. There, he declared: "It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church, will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday.' "

By the words "the whole message," the Holy Father was referring to the strict connection between the "Easter Mystery of the Redemption" □ the suffering, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, followed by the sending of the Holy Spirit □ and this Feast of Divine Mercy, the Octave Day of Easter.

In this regard, the Holy Father also said, citing the Responsorial Psalm of the Liturgy, "The Church sings ... , as if receiving from Christ's lips these words of the Psalm" [that is, *Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His steadfast love (=mercy) endures forever, Ps 118:1*]. And then, the Holy Father developed the connection further: "[This comes] from the lips of the risen Christ, who bears the great message of Divine Mercy and entrusts its ministry to the Apostles in the Upper Room: 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you. ... Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained' " (Jn 20:21□23).

By what the Holy Father continued to say, it becomes clear why Jesus insisted that the sacred image of Himself as The Divine Mercy is to be venerated throughout the world in connection with the observance of this Sunday (see *Diary*, 49, 88, 299, 341, 570, 742). The Holy Father said: "Before speaking these words, Jesus shows His hands and His side. He points, that is, to the wounds of the Passion, especially the wound in His Heart, the source from which flows the great wave of mercy poured out on humanity.

"From that Heart, Sr. Faustina Kowalska, the blessed whom from now on we will call a saint, will see two rays of light shining from that Heart and illuminating the world: 'The two rays,' Jesus Himself explained to her one day, 'represent blood and water' (*Diary*, 299).

"*Blood and water!* We immediately think of the testimony given by the Evangelist John, who, when a soldier on Calvary pierced Christ's side with his spear, sees blood and water flowing from it (cf. Jn 19:34). Moreover, if the blood recalls the sacrifice of the Cross and the gift of the Eucharist, the water, in Johannine symbolism, represents not only Baptism but also the gift of the Holy Spirit (cf. Jn 3:5; 4:14; 7:37□39).

"Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the Heart of Christ crucified: 'Tell, My daughter, [all people] that I am Love and Mercy itself [personified]' Jesus will ask of Sr. Faustina (*Diary*, 1074). Christ pours out this mercy on humanity through the sending of the Spirit who, in the Trinity, is the Person□Love. And is not mercy love's 'second name' (cf. *Rich in Mercy*, n.7), understood in its deepest and most tender aspect, in its ability to take upon itself the burden of any need and, especially, in its most immense capacity for forgiveness?"

From this teaching of the Holy Father on that most solemn occasion of his "presenting the life and witness of Sr. Faustina Kowalska. to the whole Church as a gift of God to our time," it can be deduced that the most opportune time, the most proper one, for the solemn honoring of The Divine Mercy falls immediately after the Paschal Feast of Easter, recalling the attaining of our Redemption.

St. Augustine called the *eight days of Easter* (which the Church liturgically considers as constituting a *single day (the day of the new creation)* "days of mercy and pardon." He calls the Sunday of this Paschal Octave (which our Lord insisted with St. Faustina is the Feast of Mercy [*Diary*, 88]) "the summary of the days of mercy" (*Sermon 156, Dom. In Albis*). It is no wonder, then, that already during his pilgrimage to Blessed Faustina's tomb on June 7, 1997, Pope John Paul II declared: "I give thanks to Divine Providence that I have been enabled to contribute personally to the fulfillment of Christ's will through the institution of the Feast of Divine Mercy."

Doubting Thomases

By Geof Wood

Sometimes a person sees in a Gospel story an application that fits a situation in that person's own life. For instance, according to Helen Vendler, a Harvard expert on the poetry of Emily Dickinson, Emily saw in Jesus' confrontation with today's doubting Thomas a parallel to a woman's own confrontation with a lover who *doubts her love*. The poem is brief:

Split the Lark - and you'll find the Music - . . . / Scantly dealt to the Summer Morning / Saved for your Ear, when Lutes be old - // Loose the Flood - you shall find it patent - / Gush after Gush, reserved for you - / Scarlet Experiment! Sceptic Thomas! / Now, do you doubt that your Bird was true?

The woman is addressing her diffident friend. She has in mind Christ on the cross from whose side [after the soldier's spear thrust] blood flowed forth – his very life and metaphorically his very love. She speaks then of herself as a lark, a song bird – and in effect tells her doubting lover, “split me open” and you'll *find the Music*; the ballad, the symphony of my love – how very much I love you.

She continues: granted my love is *Scantly dealt to a Summer Morning*, still it's all yours and yours alone until *Lutes be old*, as time grows old. In splitting the lark, your song bird, me! you *Loose the Flood* . . . *Gush after Gush reserved for you*. Give it a try she says, release the *Scarlet* flow (as if it were the very blood of my being); cease to be skeptical. Once you experience the full torrent of my love, will you continue to *doubt that your Bird was true?*

Earlier this month when we dealt with this Gospel reading during our presentation on the Liturgical Readings for April, we also applied it to – well – to *you*, the reader. Don't we believe that everything that happens to Christ in our Gospels predicts what will happen to you as “a renewal” of Christ's presence in our midst? When we are baptized are we not immersed in Christ's being, his life, death and resurrection? Are we not also, then, risen in some way from the tomb within which the world would bury us? What did St. Paul say? *My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.*

If that's so, may we not speak of you as having evacuated your tomb of relative unconsciousness, the dinginess of your former self? May it not be you who now confronts the old Thomas-in-you who constantly puts you down, makes you doubt your worth, undercuts your inspiration, veils your true face, your actual beauty?

And so, may it not be *you*, as the risen being Christ has made of you, who can compel that doubting-Thomas- in-you to finally cry out – not so much as a confession of faith - but as an *exclamation*: *My Lord! My God! – is this really you!*