

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



My brothers and sisters Happy Easter and Happy Feast of the Divine Mercy! On this Second Sunday of Easter, the Church invites us to turn our gaze toward the mystery of "Divine Mercy. We are invited to praise God Who, **"in His Great Mercy... has given us a new birth through the Resurrection of Jesus to a Living Hope."** The entire Liturgy of the Word extends the Good News of the Resurrection through the merciful love of the Father. The First Reading offers us the testimony of the early Church. It ceaselessly expands through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Through the voices of the Apostles, Christ proclaims the Good News; He heals and casts out evil. That same Holy Spirit continues to be at work in the Church today. He goes before us into the hearts of those He places upon our path.

The Gospel invites us to take a further step in discovering this divine mercy. It was on the evening of the first day of the week—that is, Sunday evening. The disciples had locked the doors of the place where they were gathered, for they were afraid; given the climate of hatred and violence that had prevailed in Jerusalem since Jesus' death, they feared for their safety. We know this fear well: In some countries, Christians are massacred. Elsewhere, they are held up to ridicule. We live in a world permeated by indifference, unbelief, and "misbelief." Yet it is into this world, just as it is, that we are sent to bear witness to our faith in Jesus Christ.

Just as He did for the apostles, and later for Thomas, **The Risen Lord comes to meet us within our own confinements.** To Him, all the barriers that hem us in simply do not matter. He is always present, and He seeks only to meet us at the very heart of our lives and our moments of utter bewilderment. He remains **Emmanuel "God with us."** We have seen that Thomas struggled greatly to believe this Good News. To him, it seemed impossible. He had seen Jesus dead on the cross and sealed within His tomb. He could not conceive that He would rise again. We have no right to smile at his incredulity; had we been in his place, we would have fared no better.

We, the Christians of today, are the heirs of this apostolic witness, and we, too, are sent to share it with those around us—in our families, our workplaces, and our various spheres of life. Our faith will be truly alive only if it radiates outward. **The Lord awaits us within our world, in the very places where He has positioned us to bear fruit.** He delights in working wonders within our ordinary lives, and nothing can separate us from His love.

Happy Easter ~ Happy Feast of the Divine Mercy Sunday

Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF

Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – April 12, 2026