

April 19, 2009
Second Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday

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Acts 4: 32- 35
1st John 5: 1 – 6
John 20: 19 -31

The 2nd Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. On April 30, 2000 Pope John Paul II extended this feast day to the entire church. It is a new addition to our liturgical year. The purpose is to extend a plenary indulgence; which is for the forgiveness of all sins that have already been confessed. JP II added that it is “a perennial invitation to address, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that await humanity.” This certainly rings true today. The essential and fundamental characteristic of the devotion to Divine Mercy is trust in Jesus.

Ignatius of Loyola in the Spiritual Exercises expresses our atonement of eternal healing from Divine Mercy and the Sacrament of Reconciliation as “Love ought to manifest itself in deeds rather than words.” Because of Divine Mercy, we should pray about our actions for the common good and dignity for all God’s children. However, it is one thing to understand this; living it out is quite another. Our prayer is to move from individual charity to social change. The marriage of charity and justice, however, is a matter of faith, not politics, since both flow from one love.

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