

**We come today to mark an end**

**But it is also a beginning**

**We have just spent the Triduum**

**The last 3 days of Holy Week with Christ**

**As he went through his passion**

**His being deserted by his closest followers**

**His condemnation for our sins**

**His scourging and passion**

**His crucifixion and death**

**Good Friday and Holy Saturday**

**The only 2 days in the year we have no Mass**

**Then the Easter Vigil**

**The new light coming into the world and in our churches**

**The new life of baptisms, confirmations and first Communions**

**Easter morning**

**The empty tomb**

**With Mary, seeking her Lord**

**With the Disciples as they discovered it was just as she said**

**But they didn't find him**

**All week, we had readings about the resurrection**

**From a variety of people and varying points of view**

**To today**

**When we see the apostles' gathered together**

**Still afraid**

**Still hiding out**

**Not really knowing what to do**

**Until Christ enters though locked doors**

**And enters not only the room**

**But their hearts**

**Today is the eighth day of Easter**

**Liturgically, it is still Easter Day**

**We celebrate the resurrection for 8 days**

**In ancient times, the newly baptized would still wear baptismal gowns**

**Putting them away after today**

**After today, we go back to a more normal routine**

**The high drama is gone**

**The liturgies are still festive**

**But not to the same degree of Easter morning**

**So much of the outward expression is finished**

**And now we let what we have celebrated take root**

**It is a time of deepening our faith life**

**Being able to see Christ in new and marvelous ways**

**To see how our Risen Lord comes to us in the Liturgy of the Word**

**Letting the written and preached Word enter our hearts**

**Challenge our points of views**

**Like the Apostles in our reading from Acts**

**This was after Pentecost**

**But the church was still in its infancy**

**They are growing and discovering what it means to be Christian**

**What it means to be a Church**

**How Christ speaks to them and us through the sacraments**

**At every baptism, he calls forth a new disciple**

**At every confirmation, he is strengthening a soldier of Christ**

**Calling them to a specific mission in this life**

**At every Eucharist he is offering himself to us**

**Giving himself to be our food and strength to face our week ahead**

**At every Confession**

**Giving his forgiveness and mercy**

**And giving the grace needed to avoid sin**

**At every marriage, creating a covenant between 2 people and God**

**A covenant that cannot be broken**

**Because it is made in the image of Christ and his Church**

**At every ordination**

**Transmitting his priesthood to ordinary men**

**Called from families and communities to serve families and  
communities**

**At every anointing of the sick**

**Bringing comfort, dignity and grace to those in need**

**Especially to those preparing for their final journey in this life**

**His Word**

**His Sacraments**

**His Church**

**These are Christ's life**

**They are his gift to us**

**But not only for us**

**But more importantly, they are for the world**

**For those that have not heard of Christ**

**For those that have been hurt and have turned away**

**For those that are seeking for meaning and love**

**For those of our families and friends not here with us**

**We are to take the sacraments with us when we leave**

**And bring them to the world**

**That is really what is behind our feast today**

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

**For what is mercy?**

**It is not feeling sorry for another**

**It is not pity**

**It can be defined as love's response to suffering**

**The incarnate Christ is the Father's Mercy**

**He is God's response to human suffering**

**Directed especially at the root of all suffering**

**Sin**

**Before Original Sin**

**There was no suffering in the Garden of Eden**

**There was no death**

**Sin is a foothold for Satan into our lives**

**It robs us of our dignity**

**Weakens and destroys our connection with the source of life**

**Our heavenly Father**

**God saw all this**

**And in his mercy, He sent his only Son**

**And the Risen Christ sends us**

**He came into the locked room**

**He enters our locked hearts**

***As the Father sent me***

***So I send you***

**His instructions to his disciples**

**Are his instructions to us well**

**He was sent on a mission of mercy**

**We are sent on a mission of mercy**

**He gave his authority to forgive to his Church**

***Receive the Holy Spirit***

***If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven***

***If you hold them bound they are held bound***

**We all have our roles**

**We all have our mission**

**Christ's Sacraments are for the salvation of the world**

**His Sacraments are given life through the ministry of the Church**

**Through the lives of Christian faithful**

**We have to be his missionaries**

**Inviting our brothers and sisters**

**Our friends and neighbors**

**So the entire world can experience the gift of the Risen Christ**

**The gift of Divine Mercy in our hearts**