

### Covenant Life

- We are having an in-person Prayer Meeting today and will be praying the Divine Mercy chaplet at 4pm sharp, so please arrive a few minutes early. We will continue following CDC guidelines.
- Our current plan for the next in-person Gathering is Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Laura Dorsey will be leading us in a six-week program entitled **Let the Fire Fall Challenge** to help us, as a Community, to prepare for Pentecost. More details in a separate email from her.
- For those who missed the March 21<sup>st</sup> Prayer Meeting, the audio recording is located [here](#), the summary is [here](#), and the transcript is [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

**Reflection** - Today is Divine Mercy Sunday whereby the Catholic Church celebrates the gift of mercy at the exhortation of St. Faustina. Mercy is showing compassion and forgiveness when punishment or correction might be due. This might come to mind pondering the second reading today. Specifically, 1 John 5 2-3a we read *"In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments."*

We all love God. We see Him manifest in creation, we see Him manifest in one another, we see Him manifest in the miracles that we witness in Community. We devote time to Him in prayer and we gather to praise and worship Him. We show love to God by putting Him first in our lives...but still, obeying His commandments is a lifetime journey. We have all sinned and fallen short. This is why mercy is so incredible. *"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."* (John 3:17) In the Gospel today Jesus demonstrates mercy from the first moment He appears to His disciples. Despite the denials and fear that characterized the disciples in the last days, Jesus' first words were "Peace be with you". Jesus looks beyond justice and expresses mercy by repeating the words "Peace be with you".

This is the message of God's love, proved over and over throughout the Old Testament and lived by Jesus. The psalmist in 118 says it best *"His mercy endures forever."* We have this confident assurance of His enduring love and forgiveness. His mercy is everlasting. No matter where we are in our walk with Him, His mercy is available to us. We just need to claim it.

We might be tempted to focus on our failures. We might be under pressure from the world or even friends and family members who focus on our failings. We may harbor thoughts of fear, rejection, or inferiority. If so, we need only read on a few more verses in psalm 118 where the psalmist makes two powerful pronouncements: *"The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone"* and *"This is the day the LORD has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it."* (v 22 & 24).

These words give us confidence that we are not to look to others, since rejection from others is immaterial in God's eyes. He is choosing us to be the cornerstone of what He is building and our response should be to claim today as His day and be glad and rejoice in it. In fact, given that today is Divine Mercy Sunday we should read a little further and see that the last two verses of the psalm say *"You are my God, I give you thanks; my God, I offer you praise. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his mercy endures forever."* This completes the picture of our response to feelings that are not from Him, we are to be glad, rejoice, give thanks and offer praise!

Let us pray *"Heavenly Father, I am truly sorry for the times I have failed to live Your commandments. I repent of all my shortcomings and failures. I do truly love You with all of my heart and want to walk in Your ways. Today, I receive Your mercy. I claim the promise of Your enduring love and forgiveness. I rejoice in today! I proclaim you as my God and give You thanks. I offer You praise and thanksgiving and recommit to living under the mantle of Your love and protection. I thank You for my covenant sisters and brothers who journey with me to You. Amen."*

God bless,

David