

A LETTER FROM FR. JOHN D. McCARTHY

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Family,

Greetings and Peace of the Risen Lord be with you!

In today's Gospel message, we hear how the prayerful atmosphere of the disciples gathered in the Upper Room is rudely interrupted by the stubborn disbelief of the Apostle Thomas. It seems the only way he will believe that Jesus had truly been raised from the dead is to put his fingers into the wounds of Calvary. Good Friday had ended all the hopes he had pinned on Christ. It shattered his faith to the point where he makes no attempt to hide his doubts. Thomas is indeed a precious figure for us as he demands proof of the Resurrection. In fact, he is only echoing the doubts and voicing the uncertainties which darken our minds and cloud our faith from time to time, especially when dreams are crushed by an unexpected death, a broken relationship or some type of heavy cross we have to endure. The Gospel points that faith doesn't always come easily. Sometimes believing is not a problem, at other times it can be a struggle against despair and a real challenge. Ultimately it is faith and trust that makes life meaningful because it's an adventure of our spirit that is searching for an encounter with our living God.

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday today and continue our journey together in faith during this beautiful Easter Season, I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the Clergy and Staff to extend my heartfelt gratitude for all the wonderful Easter cards and blessings you bestow upon us during this Holy Season. Your kindness, generosity and thoughtfulness are most greatly appreciated! Additionally, I wish to offer a special thank you and commend all the parishioners who pitched in to help ensure all our Liturgical celebrations were welcoming and spiritually uplifting, as well as the beautification of our Parish and Church worship spaces. As I said in many letters previously, there are so many great things happening here each day; miracles occurring in our midst when we open the eye of our hearts. It is a true honor and privilege to serve with you, and for you, as we share the one priesthood of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord!

Today we are invited to examine how great and caring our love is for our neighbors. The task of every baptized person is to bring to the attention of the community the love that the Father has for us by calling us God's beloved children. Our mission is to offer our hands to help a friend in need, feet to hasten our steps to assist the poor, eyes to see misery and want around us, and ears to hear the sighs of someone in sorrow. In every age, Jesus is calling men and women to care diligently for the intimate needs of others; and this is what being a disciple of Jesus Christ really means.

May the Risen Lord, our Good Shepherd, continue to bless our parish family with an abundance of His gifts of grace, and may our Blessed Mother Mary, Our Lady of Mercy, keep us always under the mantle of her love, care and protection.

With my continued prayers, I remain sincerely yours in Christ,
Father John McCarthy

Our Lady of Mercy, Pray for Us