

## WE LIVE DAILY AT THE MERCY OF GOD

“In love God created us, in justice He condemned us but in mercy He redeemed us.” In one way or another, we have failed or disappointed God. God knew that we would fail Him and still created us. God knew that our first parents Adam and Eve would disobey Him but still created them and placed them in the beautiful garden filled with good things to enjoy. Our failings did not influence God in creating us in His image and likeness. Unconditional love is what influences God in our relationship with Him despite our sinfulness, unfaithfulness, and disloyalty towards Him. God, being a just One, condemned us for failing Him despite all His goodness to us. SIN IS AN OFFENCE AND PUNISHMENT ACCOMPANIES ANY OFFENSE. We sinned and deserved punishment which includes eternal separation from God. Our sins did not suppress God’s unconditional love. In the face of justice, God’s unconditional love takes another form, that is, mercy. FOR GOD’S MERCY TO BE ABUNDANT FOR US, GOD TOOK OUR PUNISHMENT IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST. After the death of Jesus Christ, a soldier, using a sword, pierced the heart of Jesus, and water and blood gushed out from Jesus’ pierced heart. The gushing out of water and blood from the pierced heart of Jesus points to the flow of God’s mercy to every one of us. Now God forgives us not because we deserve it but because of His mercy. In the Gospel reading today (John 20:19-31), Jesus gave His Church the power (that is, the Holy Spirit) to forgive sins after His Paschal Mystery, that is, after paying the price of our sins. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, our sins are forgiven in the name of the Trinity and through the ministry of the Church. Through the Church and each of us, God shows His mercy to the world. We do not deserve God’s kindness, but God is still kind to us. Do you know how much oxygen costs in the hospital? Each of us is breathing in the air at no cost. If God ceases or stops supplying us with free air, rain, sunshine, and so forth, how many of us will survive? Have you been to a desert where there is no water? Life is tough in the desert. If God stops providing the necessary things that are keeping us alive in this world, this world will become worse than a desert. This is why the Psalmist in Psalm 92 points out how good it is to give thanks to God and to sing in His honor. How can you describe the act of refraining from retaliation or revenge, instead you become good, kind, and generous to someone who without remorse offended you. It is an expression of mercy. Mercy is an unmerited grace or favor. We lost our merits from God after sinning. All the things God has been doing for us can be regarded as unmerited graces. God’s forgiveness, protection, providence, care, and second chances can be seen as unmerited graces or favors. We can no longer claim that God is supposed to grant all our wishes because we have lost our merits by sinning. What we have now are privileges. Through our sins, each of us failed God. Since God has shown us mercy, we need to be merciful to others. Jesus said, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Matthew 5:7). For God to be more merciful to us, we need to show mercy to others. If God forgives us when we ask Him, we need to forgive others who seek our forgiveness and forgive ourselves when we are remorseful for disappointing ourselves. If God has not given up on us, why do we give up on others and ourselves? There is a farmer who boasted that his success was a result of his hard work. This farmer failed to acknowledge God’s assistance to him. In that very year, his poultry farm was inflicted with a disease, and he lost most of his chickens and was not well compensated for his loss. GOD EXPRESSES HIS MERCY TO US IN MANY WAYS. We do not merit God’s assistance or help but He still helps us in our daily activities. When we acknowledge God’s assistance, we see

reasons to assist others as God did for us. On this Divine Mercy Sunday, may God help us to be merciful to others and be shown mercy on our judgment day, Amen.