

Father Richard's Homily Summation

Divine Mercy Sunday

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, and we are focusing on that beautiful attribute of God. He has shown us His mercy in the most powerful way possible: taking on our human nature and making the ultimate sacrifice for our sake.

St. Augustine once said that God became man so the man can become God. The fact that God wills this, despite our small hearts (selfishness, refusal to love fully, discord), shows how limitless is His mercy. The following prayer, taken from the seventh day of the Divine Mercy Novena, illustrates how powerful is His mercy:

“Most Merciful Jesus, whose Heart is Love Itself, receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who particularly extol and venerate the greatness of Your mercy. These souls are mighty with the very power of God Himself. In the midst of all afflictions and adversities they go forward, confident of Your mercy; and united to You, O Jesus, they carry all mankind on their shoulders. These souls will not be judged severely, but Your mercy will embrace them as they depart from this life.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls who glorify and venerate Your greatest attribute, that of Your fathomless mercy, and who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls are a living Gospel;

their hands are full of deeds of mercy, and their hearts, overflowing with joy, sing a canticle of mercy to You, O Most High! I beg You O God:

Show them Your mercy according to the hope and trust they have placed in You. Let there be accomplished in them the promise of Jesus, who said to them that during their life, but especially at the hour of death, the souls who will venerate this fathomless mercy of His, He, Himself, will defend as His glory. Amen.”

Mercy is not a license. We cannot do whatever we want and expect to be pardoned of everything, whether or not we are repentant. This would be a great abuse of God’s mercy.

To celebrate the Lord’s mercy, we must strive to live in it. Mother Theresa’s work with the poor is a great example of mercy. We must be strong witnesses to the best of our ability. We have the Eucharist to help us. All we need is to ask the Lord for His help.