

Easter2-B8 Homily by Fr. Gabor

It is wonderful to see how Jesus encourages the disciples to believe.

He turns their minds and hearts from fear toward faith, peace and to forgiveness; a rapid conversion. How does he do that?

First of all He comes among the disciples into their locked up room. He makes himself present. Fear makes the disciples to lock themselves up in that room. Many of our rooms inside our hearts and minds are locked up, and we don't want to let in anybody, because of the fear of how others would treat us, if we let them inside our world: even in marriages there is a certain level of hiding from each other; couples don't share everything with each other. We hear that the disciples are afraid, because of the Jews.

I like how Jesus decides to come into their locked room. It means that Jesus is in those rooms of our hearts and souls which are locked up. These rooms are the places where He wants to meet with us and share the fruits of His resurrection, courage among them.

He also shares His peace which He won for us on the cross; the peace with the Father which you receive when you confess your sins and receive absolution. Jesus comes to the disciples and shares that peace, and at the same time gives the disciples the power to make peace by way of forgiving others on His behalf; He shares the power of the Holy Spirit. So, those who are forgiven and receive God's peace, are now empowered to help others be reconciled with God the Father. So Jesus turns the hearts and minds of the disciples from fear toward people of whom they are afraid and enables them to bring about peace in the world. How wonderful is Jesus' love for us.

Perhaps this is why the late Pope John Paul II dedicated this Sunday to Divine Mercy. The power that Jesus gave to His disciples is all the more important for our world, which is so confused by various misleading propagandas that have nothing to do with God's plan, which attack the sanctity of human life right from conception, true gender identity, true meaning of marriage. Our world is facing two major war conflicts that can escalate to take global dimensions. Divine Mercy is definitely needed.

Jesus wanted to save humanity from the power of evil, and that is why He died on the cross, so that those who follow His path of reconciliation and peace and believe in Him may not be lost eternally, but find their way back to our heavenly Father. The way He showed us is not free from suffering, but eventually leads to peace in eternity.