**SUNDAY OF THE DIVINE MERCY**

**2nd Sunday after Easter** (Year B) **9th April 2015**

Today is the Second Sunday after Easter and the Sunday of the Divine Mercy.

**1.0** The Resurrection is not a thing of the past. The Resurrection of Christ has reached us and seized us. Jesus appeared to the disciples in their locked room, liberating them from their obsessions and the narrow confines of their fear.

* The gifts of the Risen Christ to his disciples were **iH**H**His Peace** (Peace be with you!) and the **breathing of the Holy Spirit** in order **to forgive sins**.
* Jesus touches his disciples at a deeper level: “It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.”
  1. I wish to focus on Christ’s Peace to His disciples and to us, His followers.
* What does Christ’s Peace mean to us? and
* What does it mean to offer Christ’s Peace to each other?

For some people exchanging the Sign of Peace is rather embarrassing. It is more likely that, sometimes, we receive a distant nod. Often, Christians are unimpressive witnesses of Christ’s Peace.

When we offer each other a Sign of Peace, we are not simply greeting one another for being together but we are accepting the gift of Christ’s Peace. When Mahatma Gandhi died, he had just one picture in his room, that of the Risen Christ, and below it was a quotation from St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:14: “He is our Peace.”

* 1. Christ’s Peace to us cannot be taken away from us without our full consent. The Peace that we seek is a wholeness that does not exist simply in ourselves. It is in Christ. It is in Him and in Him alone that we find Peace. To quote Mahatma Gandhi once more, he wrote that “Christ is our Peace, for by His love He has broken down the dividing wall of hostility.”
  2. It is understandable that the apostle Thomas could not, at first, believe on the the testimony of other that Christ was risen, because no one can believe in Jesus without the Spirit of God, since the principal witness to the Risen Christ is the Spirit (I am quoting the First Letter of John). In the grace of the Spirit we can pray: “My Lord and My God”, as Thomas professed later on.
  3. When God seems absent, may be it is because we have become absent to ourselves, inattentive to the core of our being. St. Augustine says we have strayed from true self-presence: “Late have I loved you, O Beauty so old and so new. For you were within me and I was outside, and I searched for you outside of myself. You were with me and I was not with you.”
  4. “Peace be with you.” Accepting the gift of Peace invites us to stretch out to the least of our brethren in order to discover who we are with them.

**2.0** May God help us, in His mercy, to accept and nourish the gift of Peace and the gift of the Forgiveness of Sins. Peace be with you all.

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