

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Sunday, April 12, 2026  
Divine Mercy Sunday  
Cycle A

In today's gospel passage, the Risen Jesus appears to His disciples, and His very first words are simple, yet profound: "Peace be with you." Not an explanation of the Resurrection. Not a strategy for mission. Not even a correction for their failure. Just this: peace. And this is striking... because the disciples are not at peace... they are afraid. The Gospel tells us the doors were locked for fear of the Jews. Their hearts are troubled, burdened by guilt, confusion, and uncertainty. They had abandoned Jesus. Peter had denied Him. Everything they thought they understood had collapsed. And into that fragile, anxious, broken space... Jesus enters. And He does not say, "Why did you leave me?" He does not say, "You failed me." He says, "Peace be with you."

This is the mystery of Divine Mercy. Mercy does not begin with correction – it begins with healing. The Resurrection is not simply the return of Jesus to life, but the beginning of a new creation. And in this new creation, the first gift is peace –the restoration of what sin had shattered. Because sin always disturbs our peace. It leaves the heart restless, divided, and afraid. But the Risen Christ restores what sin has broken. And His peace makes us whole again.

That is why peace is the first gift. Because before we can be sent on mission, before we can serve, before we can love fully...we need to be healed from within.

A wounded heart cannot give what it has not yet received. It must first encounter the mercy that restores it. God does not send us because we are strong. He sends us because we have been healed.

This is very real for us today. We live in a world that is constantly searching for solutions – solutions to problems, solutions to stress, solutions to uncertainty. But often, what we really need is not a solution. We need peace. And it is not something we manufacture. Peace is something we receive. The disciples did not create peace. They did not earn it. They did not even ask for it. The Risen Christ simply gives it: “Peace be with you. And then He shows them His wounds.

This is important – because it tells us: The peace of Christ is not the absence of wounds. It is peace that passes through them. The wounds remain...but they are no longer sources of fear. They have become signs of love. And this is where the Gospel becomes even more powerful. The wounds of Christ are not only remembered. They are revealed. Because those wounds have become wells of mercy. From His pierced hands... comes forgiveness. From His opened side... flows grace.

And this changes how we see our own wounds. We often see them as burdens to hide, as weaknesses to overcome. But in Christ, they can become places of encounter. Places where God’s mercy enters...and then overflows.

Practically, this means: When you bring your sins to Confession, you are placing your wounds into His wounds. And there, they are not rejected – they are healed. When you forgive someone who hurt you, you allow your wound to become a channel of mercy. When you accompany someone in pain, not with answers but with compassion, your own wounds become a bridge of grace.

So today, do not run away from your wounds. Bring them to Christ. Let His mercy enter them. And what was once a place of pain will become a well of mercy – not only for you, but for others.