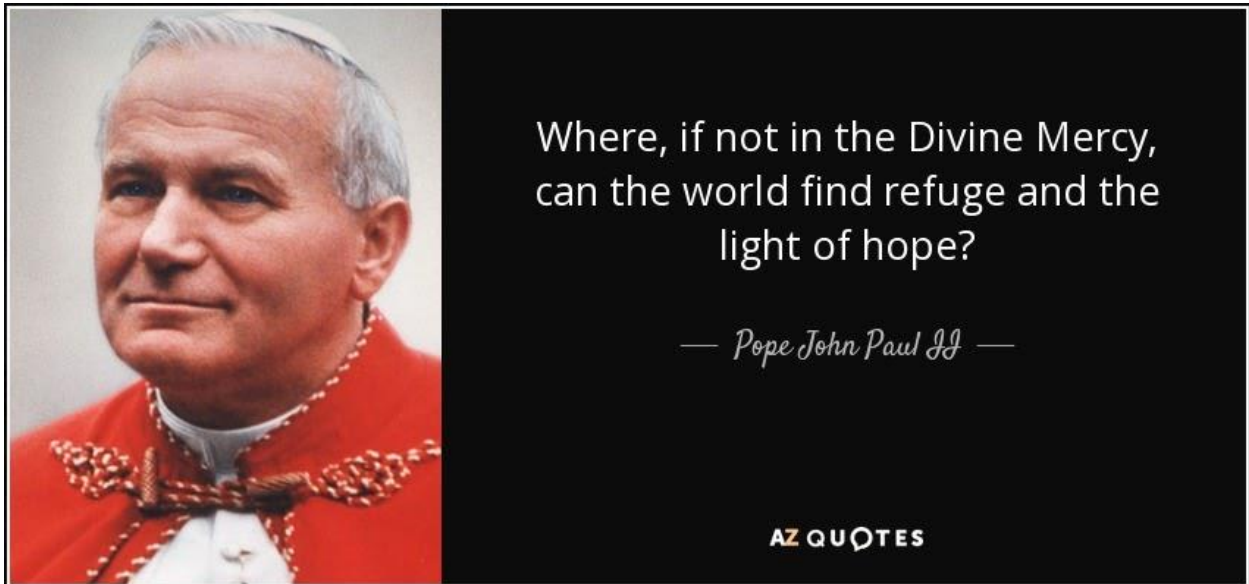


**FROM FATHER JOHN** – *“Let the house of Israel say, ‘His mercy endures forever.’ Let the house of Aaron say, ‘His mercy endures forever.’ Let those who fear the LORD say, ‘His mercy endures forever.’ I was hard pressed and was falling, but the LORD helped me. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.” ~ Psalm 118*

***His mercy endures forever, Alleluia, Alleluia! Rejoice Always, He is Risen, Alleluia!!!***



Today is Divine Mercy Sunday and the words of the psalmist ring out to all the earth, ***“His mercy endures forever!”*** In the great victory of His Cross and Resurrection, our Lord Jesus has given us grace upon grace. This is what we celebrate today; the great gift of salvation that Jesus gives each of us by virtue of His Cross and Resurrection. It’s what we celebrate every day at mass, every time we participate in the celebration of the sacred liturgy.

The mercy of God is something that we experience every day whether we realize it or not. The most beautiful thing about Divine Mercy is that it is absolutely free! There is nothing we can do to earn God’s Divine Mercy, in fact, there is absolutely nothing we need to do to receive God’s Divine Mercy other than to open hearts to it, receive it and accept it as part of lives and our union with the Lord. But, the only way to truly accept God’s Divine Mercy is to respond to it by entering into a real relationship with our Lord Jesus and living a life of discipleship.

God's mercy is both universal and foundational. It is foundational because it is at the heart of our faith and it is God's mercy that overcomes the evil that exists in the world. It is universal because God offers His mercy to every single person from the greatest sinner to the greatest saint. "

When we think of what happened with Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, Salome, the disciples and the apostles, we realize that they must have had doubts, they must have had fears, but as they encountered the risen Lord, they recognized Him and believed. What they needed to do was open their hearts, their minds, and their souls to God's great Divine Mercy.

It's the same thing that we need to do in our own lives; open our hearts, our minds, and our souls to God's great Divine Mercy. The Divine Mercy of God is completely free, unearned, unmerited but is present to us in a huge over-abundance if we are willing to open our hearts, our souls and our lives to God's great mercy. We experience it each day in one another, in the sacraments, in the scriptures, in the day-to-day happenings of our lives and even in the beauty of God's creation as we sit in awe of God's glory.

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.

