

Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday  
April 28, 2019  
Fr. Rick Lorenz

Acts 5:12-16  
Ps 118  
Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19  
Jn 20:19-31

## Reflection

1. Areas surrounding Ottawa are facing flooding.
2. Yesterday the soldiers in my unit prepared to fight the flooding, and I blessed three of them who volunteered for two weeks.
3. The blessing reminded them that they are doing corporal works of mercy. These reveal the goodness of God in the face of the laws of nature, which unfold in regular ways that can seem chaotic. They reveal his goodness by our chosen acts: giving and receiving mercy.
4. The first reading describes **corporal works of mercy**: "A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured."
5. There are also **spiritual works of mercy**. These include forgiveness. Ours limits the spread of evil on earth. God's brings penitents back to his love. "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

6. **Faith** is another manifestation of mercy. It's is an unmerited gift that makes us just. To bring Thomas to faith, Jesus made a second visit to the disciples. "After eight days his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them...he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'"

7. **Mortality** is also mercy, although it can be hard to see it that way, especially when grieving the loss of a loved one. However, death brings us to heaven. John had a vision of Jesus in heaven, who told him: "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, but see, I am alive forever and ever."

8. Jesus made a second visit to doubting Thomas. These visits continue since Jesus is present in the Eucharist. With St. Thomas, we say "My Lord and my God!" For this Eucharist, let our faith become **trust, the deepest mercy**. With St. Faustina, we say "Jesus, I trust in you."