



Relationship with GOD

More than Just SUNDAY

Divine Mercy – God’s Thirst

Here we are again – Divine Mercy Sunday. It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating not just the feast, but a whole “Year of Mercy.”

In fact, maybe the word ‘Mercy’ barely gets our attention at this point, after such a long period of intense focus. That’s how we are as human beings, right? Talk about something long enough – even the Mercy of God – and it starts to feel stale.

Maybe seeing with new eyes will help. Try on this thought: God’s mercy – His incredible LOVE for his sinful and needy creatures (you and me) – is seen most powerfully in His thirst.

Think about it. What greater sign of love could you give to a spouse, a son or daughter, a friend, than to tell them that your heart thirsts for a relationship of love with them?

But is it possible that God has made Himself vulnerable and thirsty to love and be loved by us? He has everything, right? He doesn’t need us. True, and yet in his infinity He has chosen to create and to love us and to thirst for our love in response. What a mystery!

As St. John Paul II and so many others have said, this was exactly the meaning of Jesus’ words on the cross: “I thirst.” As He lay down His life in an act of excruciating love, He was declaring His thirst for our response, our love.

St. Teresa of Calcutta was so driven by this insight that in every chapel of the Missionaries of Charity she placed next to the crucifix the words, “I Thirst.” Every act of love for the poorest of the poor was meant to see Jesus in that person and to quench His thirst.

I close with a meditation dear to the hearts of Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity around the world. It overflows with God’s merciful love.

I THIRST FOR YOU.

Yes, that is the only way to even begin to describe My love for you:

I THIRST FOR YOU.

I thirst to love you
And to be loved by you –
that is how precious you are to Me.

I THIRST FOR YOU.

Come to Me,
And I will fill your heart and heal your wounds.
I will make you a new creation, and give you peace,
Even in all your trials.

I THIRST FOR YOU.

You must never doubt My mercy,
My acceptance of you, My desire to forgive,
My longing to bless you and live My life in you.

I THIRST FOR YOU.

If you feel unimportant in the eyes of the world, that matters not at all. For Me, there is no one more important in the entire world than you.

I THIRST FOR YOU.

Open to Me, come to Me, thirst for Me,
give Me your life – and I will prove to you how important you are to My heart.

Want to know how you can literally quench the thirst of God’s little ones? Donate to Project Milk, which shares thousands of pounds of dried milk from Wisconsin dairy farmers with the children of Casa Hogar, the diocesan orphanage in Lurin, Peru, and the surrounding community, recently ravaged by deadly flooding. Read about Project Milk and donate at www.dioc.org/project-milk.

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