

God's Boundless Mercy

Jesus' friends had failed him in his Passion but still he entrusts them to continue his mission (*John 20:19-31*). For all their guilt, anxiety and fears of inadequacy, he still loves them unceasingly, understandingly, compassionately. His merciful arms are open wide for us too. We need but to step in to his embrace and each of us will experience the risen Christ in our own way.

Pope Francis explains: *"In life we go forward tentatively, uncertainly, like a toddler who takes a few steps and falls; a few steps more and falls again, yet each time his father puts him back on his feet. The hand that always puts us back on our feet is **mercy**: God knows that without mercy we will remain on the ground, that in order to keep walking, we need to be put back on our feet.*

You may object: "But I keep falling!" The Lord knows this and he is always ready to raise you up. He does not want us to keep thinking about our failings; rather, he wants us to look to him. For when we fall, he sees children needing to be put back on their feet; in our failings he sees children in need of his merciful love.

God never tires of showing us mercy and we should never take for granted the opportunity to receive, seek and desire this mercy. It is something always new, which inspires awe and wonder as we see God's immense creativity in the ways he comes to meet us.

Let us open our hearts so that the Spirit can transform us; thus forgiven, reconciled, and sheltered in our Lord's wounds, we will become witnesses to the joy that brims over on finding the risen Lord, alive among us."

(Pope Francis homily – Divine Mercy Sunday 2020)

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