



## ***2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER YEAR B – April 8, 2018***

There is a story about a couple who were shopping at the mall. When they finished their shopping and went out into the parking lot, they discovered that their brand-new car was stolen. They filed a report with the police and a detective drove them back to the parking lot to look for evidence. To their amazement, the car had been returned and there was a note on the windshield - it read - I apologize for taking your car. My wife was having a baby and I had to hot-wire your ignition to rush her to the hospital. Please forgive the inconvenience. Here are two tickets for tonight's Shania Twain concert.

Their faith in humanity was restored. The couple went to the concert and had a wonderful time. But when they got home, they found that their house had been ransacked. On the bathroom mirror, there was another note - I must put my kid through college, hope you enjoyed the concert. The lessons of life.

Life often leaves us overwhelmed with unhappy surprises, injustices - large and small. It often leaves us with challenges, both annoying and sometimes insurmountable. Before long, we let a hard shell of cynicism surround us. Skepticism becomes our shield to protect us from disappointment and heartache.

Much like St. Thomas in today's gospel, we can let ourselves become so beaten down and discouraged by life that we lose all reason to dream, to hope, to appreciate life with enthusiasm. We see ourselves as victims rather than as people who are blessed, not with everything we want but with everything we need - and then some.

At times, we let our discouragement and failures overwhelm the many good things that give our lives joy and meaning and happiness. Someone once said, happiness is not having what you want, it's wanting what you have. Every now and again, we need a faith lift. The octave of Easter is a time to expect that from God. And God doesn't let us down.

As you can see from the picture below, this is Divine Mercy Sunday. The divine mercy chaplet is a private devotion that is used by many Catholics. Saint Pope John Paul II reminds us that private devotions, no matter how wonderful, cannot be mandated for everyone. But if you want to learn more about this private devotion, just google the words "divine mercy" and all the information you need will come up on the screen.

May the mercy and the love of Jesus be with you during this octave of Easter and stay with you today, tomorrow and every day. God has a purpose for you here on earth. You would not be here if that were not true. Trust Him.

