**A Renewal of Each Person**

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Pope John Paul II, in the Ecclesia de Eucharistia: recalls the place of the institution of the Eucharist and the time of the "Sacred Triduum" says: "the hour of our redemption" to which "every priest who celebrates Holy Mass, together with the Christian community which takes part in it, is led back in spirit".

* The Eucharist is the reality of the resurrection touching each participants. That reality, should immediately turns us to witnesses.
* The early followers of Jesus, were startled by the reality of the resurrection that they could not keep silent about the presence of the Lord in their lives.
* At that time, nobody expected that within a short time of knowing Jesus, people of different social status of life could come together and share a common experience of joy in one person. They met Jesus and their lives were changed.
* Also, today, we are called to share our incredible experience in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We encounter Him in the Eucharist and know Him in our everyday experiences.
* We need not be afraid of our weaknesses, we may have doubts or feel rejection, but He continues to love us. He always finds ways of sneaking into our lives.

1st Reading: Acts 2:42-47; gives a picture of how the early followers lived their lives as a Church of Christ.

* “Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”
* Three thousand people repented, were baptized, and joined the Jerusalem Christian community (2:37-41).
* Teaching, fellowship, eating together, and prayer have been common Christian practices for ages. They are practices that describe life in a peaceful and loving environment.
* These activities, though seem common, are essential to a loving and godly environment. The coming together of believers is to elevate common everyday event to a divine reality.
* In such a gathering, we experience a sincere and genuine concern for one another. We feel, know and touch love. Nobody feels isolated or a need not attended to. Everyone is happy to be part of this new family.

2nd Reading: 1Peter 1:3-9; Saint Peter describes the state of being defined by the mercy of God. The mercy of God gives birth to a living hope and strong faith for salvation.

* “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ… Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”
* In this passage, St Peter, describes to us that our faith is more precious than gold. Our faith, when tested like gold is refined, becomes pure and genuine. This is the type of faith that can help us in the world of today.

Gospel: John 20:19-31; is the reason for which today is known as the Sunday of Divine Mercy.

* It is the story of how the risen Lord showed Himself to Thomas who was absent when He visited them previously.
* The Bible does not tell us why Thomas was absent when Jesus came before. But we know that the Lord has come back to give him a second chance.
* From this event, we learn that, the God who loves us will always care for us. That Jesus came to alleviate the fear of the apostles: “I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.” (Revelation 1:18) And that the ecclesia – the Church – is constantly renewed in the community and in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. In the Eucharist, it is not only that we receive Christ, but that Christ receives us. In it there is a mutual love as expressed in John 15:4: “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”