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Homily for Divine Mercy Sunday

Pope Francis

Only after having received Jesus' mercy were the apostles able to become merciful and selfless themselves, Pope Francis said as he celebrated Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday April 11. "It is hard to be merciful without the experience of having first received mercy," he told a congregation of fewer than 100 people at the Rome Church of the Holy Spirit, which is also the Rome Shrine of Divine Mercy, a devotion begun by St. Faustina Kowalska and promoted by St. John Paul II. Pope Francis said Jesus gave the apostles three gifts after his resurrection — peace, the Holy Spirit and his wounds. "He does not bring a peace that removes the problems without, but one that infuses trust within," he said. Addressing a congregation that included refugees, people

"Confession is the sacrament of resurrection, pure mercy."

with disabilities, inmates from several correctional institutions and first responders to the coronavirus pandemic, the pope said, "As far as God is concerned, no one is useless, discredited or a castaway." He stressed the importance of confession and said the apostles' instincts to share their belongings after receiving the Spirit "is not communism, but pure Christianity. They discovered that they shared the mission, the forgiveness and the body of Jesus, and so it seemed natural to share their earthly possessions." The pope spoke in Italian; a Vatican translation of his homily follows, copyright © 2021 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

the risen Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions. He patiently soothed their troubled hearts. Risen himself, he now brings about "the resurrection of the disciples." He raises their spirits and their lives are changed. Earlier, the Lord's words and his example had failed to change them.

Now, at Easter, something new happens, and it happens in the light of mercy. Jesus raises them up with mercy. Having received that mercy, they become merciful in turn. It is hard to be merciful without the experience of having first received mercy.

First, *they receive mercy* through three gifts. First, Jesus offers them *peace*, then *the Spirit* and finally his *wounds*. The disciples were upset. They were locked away for fear, fear of being arrested and ending up like the Master. But they were not only huddled

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