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Fr. Danny Murphy – Second Sunday of Easter – April 08, 2018

Not only is today the Second Sunday of Easter, but also, today is Divine Mercy Sunday. So, let's talk a little bit about both. The Gospel on the Second Sunday of Easter is the story of "Doubting Thomas." Our story can be similar to his story, can't it? Can't you at times you and I doubt God? Not so much his existence, as his actions. Let's take a look at some of the things that might cause us to doubt God, and then we'll take a look at something that hopefully can help us to dissolve our doubts. There are so many questions about God, aren't there? Such as, why did God permit 9-11, Columbine, Sandy Hook, Parkland? Why does God permit sexual abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking? Why can some couples conceive so easily, while other couples can't conceive at all? Why does God permit a baby to be born, only to die a few days, a few weeks later? Why does God permit children

of any age to die? Why does God permit parents of young children to die? Tonight and every night, 2/3 of the children in our world will go to bed hungry. Why does God allow that? Why does God allow so many things to happen? Why doesn't God cure cancer, Alzheimer's disease, strokes? Why doesn't God forbid terrorism, war, violence? Does God really care about me? Does God really know all that I need before I even ask? Does God really love me, despite all my sins, past and present? When I die, am I really going to go to heaven? There are so many questions that might arouse doubts about God within our hearts and our minds. Thomas had his doubts, we have our doubts. What can we do with our doubts? We can do with our doubts what Thomas did with his doubts. When Thomas doubted, he spoke with Jesus, he spent time with Jesus. After he spoke with Jesus and after he spent time with Jesus, Thomas proclaimed: "My Lord and my God!" We can do the same, when we doubt, speak with Jesus, spend time with Jesus. Prayer dissolves our doubts. Not that we always get an answer to our questions in prayer – no, not all the time – but in prayer, we realize that we don't need an answer to our questions. In prayer we can say, "Dear God, I don't know WHAT you're doing, but I know that YOU know what you're doing and I know that you love me intimately and that's enough for me!" In prayer we can hear Jesus say to us: "Blessed are you who have not seen, but have believed!"

Divine Mercy Sunday. This is a day when we celebrate that no matter what, God ALWAYS, forgives us! God's mercy, like God's love is everlasting! Here's one of my favorite stories,

and it is a true story about God's Divine Mercy. It's the story of an extraordinary woman. Her husband was injured in a fire. His face was badly burnt and disfigured. He was so very self-conscious of how he looked that he didn't allow anyone to see him, not even his wife. After several weeks of his self-imposed exile, his wife went to visit a highly renowned plastic surgeon. The doctor assured her, "I can restore your husband's face." "But," the wife protested, "Doctor, you don't understand, he's not going to allow you to see him – he doesn't allow anyone to see him." The doctor replied, "Then why did you come to me?" The wife explained, "Because I want you to disfigure my face like his, so that if I can share in his pain, maybe he'll let me back into his life!" The doctor told her, "I can't do that!" But he was so moved by the wife's love for her husband that he went to visit the husband. Through a closed door, he said very loudly, "My name is Dr. Maltz, I am a plastic surgeon, I can restore your face!" No response "Please come out!" No response. Still talking through the closed door, Dr. Maltz told the husband about his wife's proposal: "She wants me to disfigure her face to be like yours so that maybe you'll let her back into your life, that's how much she loves you." After some moments of silence – the door slowly opened. That wife's love for her husband is only a pale, PALE reflection of God's love for you, and God's love for me! No matter how disfigured we have become because of our sins, God mercy is infinite, unconditional. Divine Mercy – not only does God HAVE mercy, God IS mercy. God is Divine Mercy!