

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



Peace Be with You

God our Father,
you sent your Son to give us life,
and to bless us with his peace.
Your Son breathed his Spirit on his disciples
and on us today,
filling us with his mercy and forgiveness,
his peace and his grace.
May we be filled with the Spirit,
and take that Spirit into the world,
filling the world with your peace.
May we be empowered by the Spirit,
so that others may grow in holiness
and love,
and your grace might flow beyond
our grasp.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

April 23, 2017

The Communal Life



Today's Readings: Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31. The Acts of the Apostles describes the strength of the first Christian communities. Today's First Reading shows that those early Christians did *all things in common*. They gathered to learn the teachings of the Apostles. They shared food and other goods. They prayed at the temple and in their homes—together. Life in Christ is best served when it becomes life in Christ together, life in Christ in common with other believers.

On this Second Sunday in the Easter season, our communities of faith should be proclaimed as our sources of life in Christ lived daily. When we suffer, our community prays for us, shares food, and seeks ways to help us. When we share good news, our community proclaims that joy ever

more loudly, and promises continued support and prayer as.

Look around your church community today. Here is your faith fan club. Empowered by the Spirit, renewed by the Risen Christ, and graced by the continued presence of the Father, our communities of faith assemble and share what breaking bread together means. Rediscover the sincerity of heart within your parish. You will find that the peace of Christ, which is proclaimed in the Gospel as Christ's greeting, will rest more deeply when voiced and named clearly and with sincerity. You will find that the faith that is more precious than gold, as St. Peter writes in today's Second Reading, is more powerful when the assembly proclaims it together by word, in action, and for one another. The joy of the resurrection is palpable in the community of faith.

