

# Divine MERCY

## WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

Over the years, I have been blessed to take many beautiful trips and visit some beautiful and holy sites. One of those was the city of Avila in Spain, the birth place of St. Teresa. With its well-preserved ancient walls, it presents an unforgettable view as you approach. Like other cities I visited, one of the main attractions is the churches. As we followed our guide for our walking tour, one of the stops was the Church of San Pedro. Just as we arrived, it was closed for cleaning. What struck me, though, was the woman who had been sitting by the entrance, begging. That is not an uncommon sight at many of the churches along the tourist trails. However, I was particularly struck by this woman because it was almost as if she was now on a forced lunch break. She was waiting, just as much as the tourists, for the doors to open, so she could go back to “work!” When the doors were re-opened, she graciously gestured to all those waiting that it was okay to now enter. With that, she took up her old spot to resume her begging.

Certainly, you have encountered many closed doors during your lifetime—a church, a store, a restaurant, and more. Perhaps you were late or you had the wrong times. Regardless, it’s an inconvenience and a disappointment when you confront a locked door. Similarly, it’s a relief and a joy when a door is open.

Today, Divine Mercy Sunday, we encounter the open door of the Heart of Jesus. Remember the joy you felt, after waiting in line, perhaps for a long time, and a door is finally opened? That pales before what we are talking about on Divine Mercy Sunday. We are talking about God, about His Love, His Forgiveness, His Peace, His Mercy, and, yes, Heaven.

The Door is wide open. However, that doesn’t mean that just anybody can walk in. In a way, it does mean that anybody can, but there are conditions. We cannot cling to sin. We cannot live in sin. Our hearts cannot be hardened or indifferent. The Door is open, but it’s an invitation, not a guarantee. It’s open for a simple beggar woman, only God knows her story, and it’s open for us. However, we must be more than just a curious, casual or bored pilgrim. We must be a seeker. We must truly want to enter.

Every day the world closes doors, doors to peace, doors to forgiveness, doors to true happiness, doors to true love. At the same time, the world opens doors to dead ends and scary places, false pleasure, darkness, hatred, selfishness, pride. God opened the door to salvation years ago in His Son’s Death and Resurrection, what we really need and want. Today, Divine Mercy Sunday, the Lord wants to remind us. One final reminder. Did you ever approach a door with people waiting, assuming the door is locked? Finally, somebody says, “Did you try the door?” With that, someone in the front, with embarrassment, actually grabs the doorknob, and discovers that it was open all along! There are also many people who, sadly, assume, that God’s door is closed. No! We close it.

This is a most beautiful feast, Divine Mercy Sunday. It’s not a new devotion, it’s a reminder, because we forget, don’t believe, or even worse, don’t care. Please, please, please, the Door is open. Don’t miss this opportunity. Your eternal salvation depends on it!

***“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)***