

**Deacon Tony's April 16, 2023 Homily**  
**For**  
**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

When we read the Scriptures using Lectio Divina, we read and re-read the passages.

When we re-read, certain words stand out as holding deeper meanings to the message.

As in the very first line in Acts: "THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES". The obvious question

that comes to our minds is, **how devoted are we?**

The early disciples lived a communal life in which the community was first in their hearts.

So much so that they sold their property and possessions and contributed the proceeds

for the benefit of the community. They shared all things in common.

**They met daily for the breaking of the bread and praising God in all that they did.**

And everyday God added to their numbers. The thing that **they shared was God's MERCY.**

More words:

His mercy brought a **new birth with a new hope** in an inheritance that is imperishable.

We rejoice and praise Him with an indescribable joy as we attain **the goal of our faith,**

**THE SALVATION OF OUR SOULS IN ETERNITY.**

The Gospel has Jesus meeting with His Apostles as they were hold up in a room from fear.

PEACE BE WITH YOU! We know what they were fearful about, but we have to ask

ourselves, what are our fears. Are we afraid that God will ask us to something that will

take us out of our comfort zone. He might not ask us to give up our lives,

but are we, afraid that He might ask us to give up our lifestyles?

He calls us to forgive sins and help heal divisions between God and ourselves,

our children, our parents, and all family members, our friends and fellow parishioners,

our co-workers, our clergy and all who have offended us.

He asks us to extend mercy as He has extended that same mercy to us.

Let us go in joy and peace in the knowledge that we are sons and daughters of

a merciful God, who extends love perpetually.