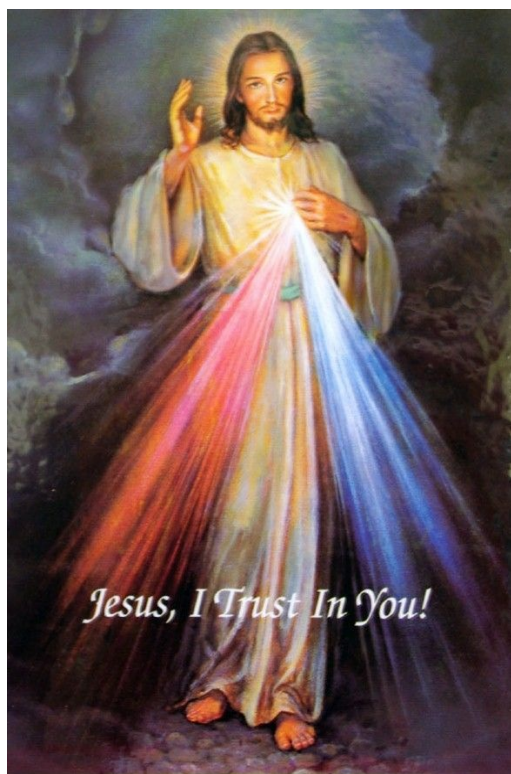


One of my favorite television shows is, *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives*, on the Food Network. The show has expanded its horizons over the years. However, the original premise of the show was that the host, Guy Fieri, traveled around the country and showcased the top food establishments that fit the title of the show. Over the years, Guy's promise to viewers has been, "If it's funky, I'll find it." In other words, if a place is worth finding, he will find it. I believe God works somewhat in the same manner. I think it's fair to say, "If there's faith, He'll find them."

For example, during the first or second month of my priesthood, I received a phone call from a much older priest. I was on Staten Island at the time and he was from a different diocese. A young Jewish man was near death at a local hospital. The priest had been working with this young man. The priest assured me this young man was in the process of becoming Catholic. He asked me to go to the hospital immediately and baptize him. I remember being uncomfortable with the situation as I hurried to the hospital. The priest suggested I call the young man's mother. She assured me it was okay. I had her permission. I put away my phone and I baptized the unconscious young man. His eyes opened wide when I baptized him. Shortly later, he passed away a Catholic and with all his sins forgiven. To their credit, his family made sure he had a Catholic Funeral Mass. May he Rest In Peace.

I have many times described the Lord as the ultimate US Marine. The Marines have two mottos I'm aware of: (1) Always Faithful and (2) No man is left behind. God is always faithful to us, even if we aren't faithful to Him, He is faithful to us. No person is left behind who has faith in God, who is sorry for his or her sins and who desires Heaven. God specializes in rescue missions. God finds His sheep whether it's a young Jewish man on the brink of death or a group of His disciples hiding because of fear of the Jews. You don't have to be funky either to be found. Saint Paul wrote that God, "...wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:4).



Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. In a series of revelations during the 1930s which were given to a young Polish nun, Saint Faustina Kowalska, Jesus revealed His Merciful Heart. Nobody who comes to Jesus with a repentant heart will be refused His mercy. Jesus wants the love and mercy which flows from His Most Sacred Heart to flow into our wounded hearts. He wants to transform our lives. He wants to unburden us of the guilt and shame we may feel deep down. All we have to do is to seek His forgiveness.

That stated, as Pope Francis has pointed out, resisting Our Lord's grace doesn't always work for those who have chosen to do so. Jesus entered the upper room, in today's Gospel, when its doors were locked. God prefers to enter our hearts willingly. Nonetheless, when He sees fit, He'll knock a door down to save a person. With a God so loving, how do we ever despair? Lord Jesus, I trust in You!