

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 2ndSUNDAY EASTER YEAR A 2023.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTION OF RECONCILIATION.

Problems,fear,panic,challenges and danger contributes so much towards unity in diversity in the society.These issues brings people together and most of the time they forget their differences and work towards the common good.In an African context,sickness,death and hardship contributes so much towards community building.

This is also clearly detected in our readings today and especially the first reading(Act.2:42-47).It gives us a picture of the early Christian church.It was like one big family,where everyone was **agreeable and cared** for each others well being,it was facilitated by fear and threat from the Jews. They **devoted** themselves **to the teaching of the apostles,communal life,breaking of the bread and to prayer**.This is what we call small Christian communities in Africa(Jumuiya).The church is thriving so much using this very effective tool of evangelization. They **supported each other,shared everything according to one's need and non lacked anything**.what a good way of common good really especially in the present world.

Most likely it is in such a community being together,when the **doors and windows were closed and locked for fear of the jews** that the **Risen Lord** appeared to them.His Glorified exalted resurrected body was not subject to **human limitation,like place time or space yet it retained scars inflicted on his body by the nails**,they were like his birthmark and signature.This is what he **showed His apostles as a proof that it was the same body nailed.(Jn.20:20 then he showed them his hands and his side)**.

The Lord knew exactly what they needed at that moment due to fear his greetings was enough to strengthen them **peace be with you again he repeated peace be with you!obviously they needed peace as we need it as much as they needed it.**

Granting them peace he went a step further in ***commissioning them his mission, "As the father has send me so I send you".(Jn.20:21)***

This is real mission for all of us and our Risen Lord is giving the same mission.

He went further ahead by giving them an **helper as they undertake this mission.**He breathed on them **saying, receive the Holy Spirit, for those sins you forgive are forgiven and those sins you retain are retained** (Jn.20:21-23).

This is the **institution of the sacrament of Reconciliation, hence DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY.** God loves us and He is merciful to all.

Christ knew very well he was not establishing his church among the angels but human beings, not in heaven but here on earth hence it is a church on transit with challenges very human towards divine.

This is clearly seen from his very first followers who were very human **betraying, denying, deserting and now doubting him!(Jn.20:24-20)** the doubting Thomas looking for a proof. This led him to **proclaim his faith after Jesus reappeared again when he was present(Jn.28)you are my lord and my God.** The Risen Lord established his church and entrusted the church to such people.

The Lord want to establish and entrust His church this century to **you and me regardless of our strength or weakness., equipped with talents, treasure and time He has granted to us.** How are you taking this mission in the modern challenging world of our century.

He is encouraging us with these words **HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND BELIEVE!**, that is where we belong and we must be firm there. Only **faith and trust in Jesus can save us not the sight of his vision.** **LETS GO FOR HIS MERCY TODAY:**