A DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST JESUS, RISEN FROM THE DEAD!

Place: (Every Church)

Date: (2/3 April 2016)

Time: (Every Mass)

(The scene opens in the absolutely beautiful church of Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport, New York where the Priest has just arrived at the Celebrant's Chair. The music is playing, some of the people are singing, and as the Priest is preparing to collect the prayers of the gathered assembly, he is cut to the heart by the Presence of Christ Jesus Risen from the Dead and addresses that Presence.)

Priest: You seek Isabela, Elizabeth, Anthony, Antonio, Therese, and Theresa. They are not here. (Interiorly the Priest points to empty pews throughout the church.) Behold the place where they were on Easter Sunday.

Christ: I know where they were on Easter Sunday. I rose to meet them. Where are they today?

Priest: I am sorry Lord. I do not know where they are. (With that, the music stops playing, all the people stop singing, and the Priest begins in the usual way): "In the (✠) Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The Lord be with you.")

✠ ✠

"Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has been raised" (Saint Luke XXIV:5-6). Anyone and everyone who *came home* for the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday heard those words proclaimed. Even if you were not amongst those who *came home* for the Vigil, it is very likely that those words are familiar to you never-the-less. They are the words that greeted Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, when "at daybreak on the first day of the week … they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb" (Saint Luke XXIV:1).

The women at the tomb that morning didn't get it; for "they did not yet understand the Scripture that He had to rise from the dead." (Saint John XX:9). That understanding would come when they joined the disciples who were gathered together *on the evening of that first day of the week and Jesus came and stood in their midst* (cf. Saint John XX:19) in the Upper Room where on Holy Thursday just a few days earlier He said: "this is My Body"; "this is My Blood".

It is in the Upper Room where Jesus continues to rise and meet anyone and everyone who seeks Him. If there is something about that rising again that you still don't understand/that you still don't get, keep *coming home* and you will *recognize Him in the breaking of the bread* (cf. Saint Luke XXIV:35).

Cover Art: *Doubting Thomas* by (Artist Unknown)