

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, C (Divine Mercy)

**My Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

How many times in your life have you said something like this? **“That could never happen. It is impossible.” “Not in my wildest dreams can I imagine that ever coming true.” “I will never get through this. It is over. This is all there is or ever will be.” “No way. Not now, not ever.”**

I suspect we have all said those things in one form or another. We have all bumped up against the impossible in our lives. And we all live with our own version of what is and what is not possible. Most of the time, we live our lives based on what we consider to be possible. We consider the range of possibilities, then decide, choose a direction for our life, take our next step, all within the boundaries of what is possible. But what if life is bigger than that? What if the impossible can be made real? What if the impossible really does happen? What if the impossible is possible?

I know that doesn't make sense and cannot explain it. I don't know how it happened. I only know that it does. I have seen it happen in my life, and I will bet it has happened in your life, too.

When has something like that happened in your life? What did you consider an impossibility that was one day realized, an impossibility that happened? Maybe your heart melted with your first child, and you thought you could never have more love than you did in that moment.

Then your second child was born, and the impossibility of more love became a reality. Or maybe it was just the opposite. Your heart was broken, shattered, and you knew you would never love again. Maybe you said no one else could compare it to that earlier love, and you didn't want anyone else. Or maybe it was just too painful, and you vowed never to risk being hurt like that again. Either way, you had closed the door on love and intimacy until he or she opened it in ways you never imagined possible. Have you ever had one of those times when you thought you would never get through? You limped through life, going through the motions. It felt as if you had lost everything. Your grief and loss had locked out the possibility of a new life, but one day something happened. Something changed. The world looked different. You felt different. A door opened, and what you once thought was impossible was your new reality.

We all have stories like that. We could each talk about a time in our lives when the impossible was made real.

What if every impossibility of our life is realized as an experience of resurrection? What if each one is a time when Jesus stepped through the locked door of our life? Isn't that what happened in today's gospel?

It is the evening of Easter. The disciples are gathered in a room. The doors are locked. It is impossible for someone to get. They have made sure of that. They are scared. Then the impossible happened. Jesus showed up. He is not dead. He is alive. He is not in the tomb. **He "came**

**and stood among them.”** He breathed peace upon them. That didn’t happen just once. It happened twice. Twice, Jesus stepped into that room of frightened disciples hiding behind their locked doors of impossibility. Have you ever considered that that kind of thing is always happening? And it is as much a part of our lives as were the disciples?

The possibility of the impossible isn’t just the story of Easter. It is the story of Jesus. Jesus is always stepping through our locked doors of impossibility. That’s the good news of his gospel.

Think about all the stories of impossibilities that became real.

God became human in Jesus. Or as St. John puts it, **“The Word became flesh and lived among us.”** There’s a reason St. John says, **“Yet, the world did not know him.... His own people did not accept him.”** It is impossible. Who would believe that God would become one of us?

A virgin gives birth to a child. **“How can this be?”** That’s not only Mary’s question. It is ours too. That kind of thing is impossible.

Water is turned into wine. Don’t we wish?!

Five thousand are fed with two fish and five loaves of bread. Until it happened, Philip would never have thought it possible. **“Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each to get a little,”** he says.

Martha knows the impossibility of her brother, Lazarus, coming out of the tomb. **“Lord, already there is a stench because he has been**

**dead four days.”** And then the dead man walks out, the door of death has been unlocked and opened.

And then there's Jesus' resurrection. The women's good news of the empty tomb seemed to the men **“an idle tale, and they did not believe them.”** After all, dead men can't live. It is impossible. And the tomb could never be the womb of new life, could it?

None of that was possible until it happened. And I cannot tell you how any of it happened. I don't know. I don't see how it happened in my life. I don't know how it has happened in your life. I have no explanation. But that doesn't mean it cannot or did not happen. We know better. We are **“witnesses to these things.”**

Unexplainable and impossible are not the same thing. That's the paradox. **“The impossible becomes possible without becoming understandable.”** And when it does, doors are flung open and a whole new field of possibilities lies before us.

So, what about you? What are the doors of impossibility for you today? What possibilities have you locked out of your life?

We all have our locked doors of impossibility. I wonder what is being unlocked and opened for you and me today.

We will never know unless we consider the impossible possible. So, what if, instead of starting with what we consider possible and reasonable, we began with the impossible? Let's not get trapped by what we think is possible. Let's go to the place of impossibility in our lives.

That is where Jesus is showing up. That's where he is breathing peace.  
That is where doors are being opened. That is where new life begins.  
And that's where I want to be.

**My Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

What if the impossible isn't impossible? What if what we see as impossible is just us catching up to Jesus? **Amen.**