

April 11, 2021



Happy Easter, Parishioners and Anyone Else Reading This!

The 50 days which make up the Easter Season are so many due to the fact that Easter is the most important feast of the liturgical year. Jesus' dying and rising, his appearances to his followers and his sending of the Holy Spirit upon them (and us through confirmation) really is the heart of our faith.

Today, the Second Sunday of Easter, is also Divine Mercy Sunday and we hear marvelous readings. This gospel includes the story of that outspoken follower, Thomas, whose declaration that he won't believe until he actually touches the wounds of Jesus has led to the phrase "doubting Thomas" though you won't find that in the gospel. This is the same Thomas (who must have been an extrovert) who declares his willingness to die with Jesus (John 11.16) and says out loud at the Last Supper that they haven't a clue where Jesus is going (John 14.5)! The next time Jesus shows up, Thomas is present and Jesus offers him his wounds to touch. Thomas declines and proclaims, "My Lord and my God!" words which elicit from Jesus, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Fortunately, that's us!

I can't help but think of how our image of God (for us who are older, at least) has changed from when we were growing up until now. If we listen closely to the gospels, we might notice that often we hear that someone was "coming to believe," a wonderful reminder that our faith may very well begin like the mustard seed and will take time (and prayer and experience) to grow. That the disciples he'd spent so much time with deny and desert him AND become the foundation of the first Christian communities should give us great hope!

The fact that the Easter lilies are opening slowly is, perhaps, a good symbol of how our hearts and minds need time to absorb the mystery of God's love for us and how this difficult time of the pandemic is challenging us to experience ourselves, our relationships and our world differently. Having mercy on ourselves and each other surely is one aspect of this invitation. May the Spirit, whose coming we'll celebrate at the end of these 50 days on Pentecost, teach us what we need to learn!

Peace, Sr. Seral