

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER; Cycle – A; April 12<sup>th</sup> 2026**  
**Acts 2: 42-47; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19-31**

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

During the Easter season our main focus is on the great truth of the Resurrection of the Lord. But initially the disciples had struggles to accept this great reality of Resurrection. They had unanimous reaction over the crucifixion of Jesus that everything was over with that and that is why they all fled for their lives. But they had mixed reactions towards the reality of Resurrection. None of them accepted it in the first place; they had doubt, fear, amazement and confusion. In today's gospel we are drawn to the doubt and faith of the disciples through the example of Thomas.

While the disciples were witnessing the miracles of Jesus, they had no problem to believe in the divine power of Jesus. But it was lot harder for them to believe in the power of Jesus, once he was crucified. They didn't believe in the testimony of the pious women to whom the angel announced the reality of the Resurrection of Jesus. As we heard in today's gospel, Thomas seems to be in a big crisis to believe the words of his fellow disciples who met the risen Lord. Thomas doubted the Resurrection because he had suffered the crisis of the crucifixion. According to John even after witnessing the risen Lord twice, Peter, the head of the pack, decided to go back to his old career of fishing and he could get another six disciples to his side. Jesus had to appear again on the shore of the sea of Tiberius to confirm their faith.

Thomas stands isolated not only due to his doubt but more than for his stubbornness. His demand seems to be very harsh and rude. But his harshness should not be considered as the reflection of his unbelief or rudeness. It was rather the expression of his love and disappointment over missing the opportunity to see the Lord with his friends. But his faith was restored when he saw the Lord. He expressed the depth of his faith in a few words, **“My Lord and my God!”** He never deviated from that faith a little and that deep faith enticed Thomas even to reach India with the gospel message. Of course Jesus appreciated the faith of Thomas but the comment Jesus made to him is very comforting for us. Jesus said to Thomas, **“Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”** We can be happy that you and I belong to this group of people who have believed without seeing Jesus. In today's second reading Peter comments the faith of his community in these words, **“Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now, yet you believe in him.”**

Sometimes, we feel that we are better than the apostles who failed to accept the truth of Resurrection initially even when they have seen Jesus in full person. If we belong to the group of people whom our Lord calls blessed, because of their belief, let us be grateful to the Lord for that faith which we are given. In fact, as human beings none of us can claim that we have full faith in Jesus. In their good times, the disciples also enjoyed good faith in the Lord. It is the same with us too, in other words, when things go well with us everything is easy for us; easy to pray; easy to go to church for Mass; easy to be optimistic and happy, easy to help others and get along with them. But the real test comes when something painful happens in our lives quite unexpectedly; for instance, a sudden death in the family, unexpected accidents or sickness, financial downfall, marriage crisis, so on and so forth. On such occasions the faith of many is shaken and a few lose it totally. Most of us can share the experience of such crisis.

Again coming back to the case Thomas, we find a serious mistake committed by him during the period of his crisis and frustration over the death of his Master. Instead of staying with his friends Thomas isolated himself to nurse his wounds and solve his problems single handed. As a result when Jesus appeared to the group, he missed it. The second time when he was with the group he was blessed with the appearance of Jesus. It is an example of the presence of Jesus in the community. Of course, I don't deny the personal God experience we all have. But belonging to a community makes a lot of difference in our lives especially during our crisis. The community is a big family and the members are united together as brothers and sisters. When one member suffers it is the pain of the whole community and when the community shares our pain, it is reduced. In the community we can expect many to pray for us. Sometimes people argue that they don't need a community to worship God and solve their problems. But soon they will be isolated and become helpless. It is also very important for us to belong to the community to nourish our faith and deepen the same. Jesus himself emphasizes communitarian prayer. Please listen to his words, **“Amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”** (Mt. 18: 19-20).