

Journey OF Faith

April 11, 2010

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER | DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

In Word & Deed

Our response to good news is often one of doubt. A popular program on public television is *Antiques Roadshow*. People bring in their old treasures to have them appraised. Whenever someone has an item that receives a high estimation of value, the response is inevitably one of doubt and suspicion: “No way” or “You’ve got to be kidding” or “Are you serious?” We need to confirm, to verify and to see for ourselves that something good is true. No one ever says those things when the estimate is low or an item is deemed worthless. Instead, they say things like, “I knew it” or “I thought that would be the case.” We are indeed plagued by doubt.

It’s no surprise then that Thomas doubted. He was not present when Jesus appeared and he just could not believe what the other Apostles were telling him. He needed to see and feel for himself if he

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Peace be with you.
As the Father has
sent me, so I
send you.

John 20:21

Sunday of Easter

Divine Mercy Sunday

IN ORDER TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD, ONE HAS TO HAVE SILENCE IN ONE'S SOUL AND TO KEEP SILENCE; NOT A GLOOMY SILENCE BUT AN INTERIOR SILENCE; THAT IS TO SAY, RECOLLECTION IN GOD.

Saint Faustina

Scripture Readings

Sunday **April 11**
Acts 5:12-16/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31

Monday **April 12**
Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday **April 13**
Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday **April 14**
Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday **April 15**
Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36

Friday **April 16**
Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday **April 17**
Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21

Sunday **April 18**
Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

FAMILY LIFE:

TO WALK AS ONE

When I was in high school, it was a great relief to hear the pastor tell us that doubt is part of faith and we should expect to have doubts from time to time. The mysteries of faith are deep and cannot be totally comprehended, so when our minds run into a roadblock that refuses to be understood or submit to logic, we doubt. It is a natural reaction to things we do not understand. His suggestion was to keep trying to understand and then to appreciate the mysteries of faith, especially the Eucharist, the Trinity and the eternal nature of God—questions that always came up in our religion class.

Doubt can trip us up if we assume that it indicates a lack of faith. Doubt just means we need to understand more, appreciate better, or practice more

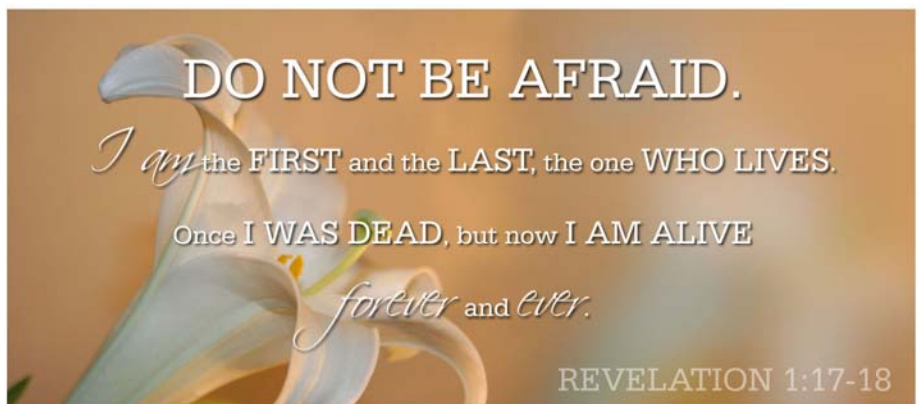
intently. It means we reaffirm our beliefs, get answers to our questions and clarify our thoughts. Doubt may indicate that we are growing, leaving behind a less mature faith and deepening our spiritual life. So talk about it. Share your thoughts and ideas with your spouse. Learn and grow together. Explore the Catechism, try different forms of prayer or study the Bible. Get what you need to be a little more certain, a little less fearful and a lot more joyful. Let your doubt motivate you to strengthen, share and practice your faith.

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jim@stgeorgepublishing.com



Because we have been gifted with God's peace in the risen Christ, we are called to our own peace and to the making of peace in our world. As disciples and as children of God it is our task to seek for ways in which to make the forgiveness, justice and mercy and love of God visible in a world where violence and enmity are too often the norm.

~Challenge of Peace



In Word & Deed

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was to have faith. When Jesus appears again, He gives Thomas what he needs to believe.

We all have moments of doubt and we seek reassurance that Jesus will give us what we need just as He gave Thomas what he needed. Jesus does not reject

faith because of doubt; he rejects doubt with the fulfillment of faith. Faith stands in the present and looks to the future. Be confident. The Lord will finish the good work He has begun in you.

~James Gaffney



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