

Gospel Reflection

How familiar Thomas' request for more information seems to us! When confronted with an unexplained phenomenon, our rationalist impulses tell us to do precisely what Saint Thomas does in this Gospel: seek confirmation of and more data concerning the phenomenon in question. We should note, however, that Thomas' desire for data does not survive his encounter with the risen Christ. Instead of engaging in the dispassionate investigation of what he sees, he instead delivers one of the most moving and significant expressions of faith in the whole of the New Testament.

This brings us to the core of Saint Thomas' real doubt. Not the cultivated doubt of a rationalist, but the emotional turmoil of a man whose experience of true horror (the persecution and eventual death of his friend and teacher) had filled him with doubt that, despite Christ's promises, things could ever be made *right*. We see hints of this in earlier scriptural accounts of Thomas. When Christ risked death by stoning to attend to Lazarus, it was Thomas who called upon his fellow disciples to follow Him, not to success but to what he was sure would be their deaths. Likewise, when Jesus tries to reassure the Twelve at the Last Supper, it is Thomas who speaks the group's uncertainty as to what will happen next.

While Thomas' courage and loyalty in the face of his certainty of an ill outcome are themselves worthy of our admiration and emulation, how much more challenging a task are we being called to by this gospel! We are asked not merely to stoically endure uncertainty, but to do so in a spirit of faith. In a word, we are called upon to hope!

Faith does not get a day off whenever we feel as though we have lost touch with God or lost sight of the end for which He is preparing us. On the contrary, it is during these dark nights of the soul that we most need to hold fast to our continuing professions of faith. When all we see is darkness, we are called to cry out to the void, "My Lord and my God!" and be confident that, though it may be beyond the reach of our vision, God has heard us and will answer. *Daniel Ambord, Faith Formation*

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

John 20:19-31

T S P D Z U F R T E L E V
L U E E N W X I J O W S I
H M F L A E A W C R O N U
S Y M G T C S K D S U I V
T D Z T O S E E I T N S X
J I K Q Z D O G D M D X E
E D E I D K N P Q D R V W
E E E O B S Y D A Q E U L
J Q O S K R A M L I A N T
X R E R A E F X L D Z G N
S T H O M A S E R E U N B
W Y K M P C B O D X L H O
V R B H X T L G P J M V Y

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

APOSTLES	BELIEVE	DIDYMUS
FEAR	GOD	LOCKED DOORS
LORD	NAILMARKS	PEACE
SEE	SEND	SIGNS
SINS	THOMAS	WOUND

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

Divine Mercy Sunday
3/30/2008

John 20:19-31
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *John 20:19-31*

The Gospel according to John

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he said this he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called **Didymus**, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the nail-marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was among them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said

to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written **that you may come to believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord



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Gospel Glossary

Thomas/Didymus: The Aramaic word for "Thomas" and the Greek word "Didymus" both mean "twin."

"that you may come to believe": Sometimes translated "that you may continue to believe"

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- Where do I see the risen Christ sending me?
- Does carrying on Jesus' mission help me to believe in the resurrection? How?
- When have my doubts brought me to deeper faith?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father and God of mercy,

We no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people towards the fullness of eternal life with you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Divine Mercy Sunday