

Second Sunday of Easter, April 19, 2020

Background: The gospel passage focuses on the story of Doubting Thomas. Some people seem to believe that people of faith do not have any doubts. Yet, as the theologian Paul Tillich often pointed out, doubt is the dynamic element within our faith. Just like in a marriage, the journey of faith is a succession of challenges which must be met one-by-one if our relationship with God in Christ through the sacraments of initiation is to deepen and grow.

Some Discussion Questions

1. Why did Thomas doubt? What kind of certitude was he looking for? What experiences in life have made us doubt?
2. What made Thomas come to faith? (Did he ever actually touch Jesus?) Why was he willing to take a chance? What has led us to faith in Jesus whom we cannot see?
3. What experiences in our life have led us to faith in Jesus? What challenges are we still facing as we await full initiation?
4. The reading from Acts depicts an idealized early Christian community. What characterizes their life together? What role has the Christian community played in our journey of faith?

Practice: In what way am I trying to improve my personal relationship with Jesus?

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