



Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Easter (B)

April 7, 2024

I Want Proof

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Who doesn't? It's not simply that we are children of the scientific age in which proof is essential. Concrete evidence gives us a sense of security; it helps us understand how things work. Even in ordinary human relationships, we want proof. A tune from *My Fair Lady* demands, "Don't talk of love...show me." It's very difficult to live without a certain degree of surety. Consequently, we should not be surprised at Thomas' insistence: "I want proof!"

Thomas is often described as lacking faith. This isn't the full story. The reason the other disciples believed was because

they had an experience of the risen Lord. Before that experience they were hiding behind locked doors. Thomas was absent; we are not told why. Whatever the reason, he also wanted an experience of the risen Lord. He was not content to base his believing on their word alone. In a sense, more was being asked of Thomas than the others.

Thomas is the patron of all of us whose faith in the risen Lord is based on the word of others rather than on our own unique revelatory experience. Who of us wouldn't want some mystical experience? We are called to believe without seeing. Yet, this isn't strictly true—we can see evidence of the resurrection. The best proof is revealed in the lives of millions of people who commit themselves to God and who strive to live with integrity. †

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Sunday Readings

Acts 4:32–35

With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all.

1 John 5:1–6

Whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.

John 20:19–31

[Jesus said,] "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

A Word from Pope Francis

Today is the day to ask, "...Do I, who have so often been fed by the Body of Jesus, make any effort to relieve the hunger of the poor?" Let us not remain indifferent. Let us not live a *one-way faith*, a faith that receives but does not give....

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 11, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Were there people who taught you your faith just by how they lived?
- Who looks to you as a person of faith in the risen Jesus?

Doubt as a Doorway to Faith

Richard B. Patterson

Somewhere between college and the present, I seem to have lost the faith of my youth. The strong emotions I would feel at midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. The intense desire to serve God. The deep guilt and fear when I would fall into sin. Somewhere along the way I lost that faith. I would wonder, what happened?

At times I blamed the loss on my sisters' deaths. Perhaps it was because my job as a psychologist brought me into contact with so much suffering. Or maybe the nuns were right; maybe it was because I went to a secular school after college. I've come to see that probably all those factors were involved. And more.

I miss that faith. That certainty. Knowing where I stood. The warm



feelings of connection with the Divine. As I began to doubt, I feared that doubts were sinful or at least a sign of weakness. I would occasionally hear relatives whisper about someone who "lost the

faith." Such whisperings were tinged with a bit of judgment.

I have read a lot over the years and have found help and comfort from many writers: Thomas Merton. C. S. Lewis. Henri Nouwen—all men of deep faith. A faith I lack. One day it dawned on me that each of these men whom I envied had gone through moments of significant doubt. Is it not conceivable that the rich faith they articulated would in some way have only been possible through doubt? In other words, rather than being the enemy of faith, could it not be possible that doubts could in fact be a doorway to a deeper faith? †

From *Turtle on the Fencepost: Finding Faith Through Doubt*
by Richard B. Patterson,
available at Liguori.org

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "Why Catholics Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday" by Albert McBride, O.Praem.

On October 6, 2006, an armed man entered an Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania. He chased out the little boys and lined up the 10 little girls in front of the blackboard. He shot all of them and then killed himself. Five of the girls died. After the medics and police left, the families of the fallen carried their slain children home. They removed their bloody clothes and washed the bodies. Then they walked to the home of the man who killed their children. They told his widow they forgave her husband for what he had done, and they consoled her for the loss of her spouse. They buried their anger before they buried their children. Amish Christians believe that God's forgiveness depends on extending forgiveness to other people. That's what the mercy of God is all about. That mercy is why we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. †

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*Lord Jesus, as you promised
mercy, live in us that we may
forgive those who wronged us
and seek forgiveness from
those we have wronged,
we pray. Amen! Alleluia!*

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 8–13

Monday, The Annunciation of The Lord:
Is 7:10–14; 8:10 / Heb 10:4–10 / Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 4:32–37 / Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 5:17–26 / Jn 3:16–21

Thursday, St. Stanislaus:
Acts 5:27–33 / Jn 3:31–36

Friday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 5:34–42 / Jn 6:1–15

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 6:1–7 / Jn 6:16–21

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