



The Thomas Dilemma

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Will is a widower, now in his eighties. He calls every once in a while, partly to talk but really wanting to know how he can convince his grown children and grandchildren to come back to church. He tells me they're good people, but he would like them to have faith. It's been a mainstay in his life, he tells me, something that has gotten him through many difficulties. He loves his family but says their life would be so much richer if they had an active faith life. I try to tell Will he can't argue them into faith. At most he can share with them how faith has been a blessing in his life, hoping that it might then spark an interest in them.

The disciples in the Gospel story about "Doubting Thomas" experienced Will's dilemma. They were unable to convince Thomas that the Lord had risen. He insisted that he would only believe when he could put his fingers and hands into Jesus' wounds, which of course is just what happens the next time they are gathered. For Thomas, words were not enough; he needed the experience.

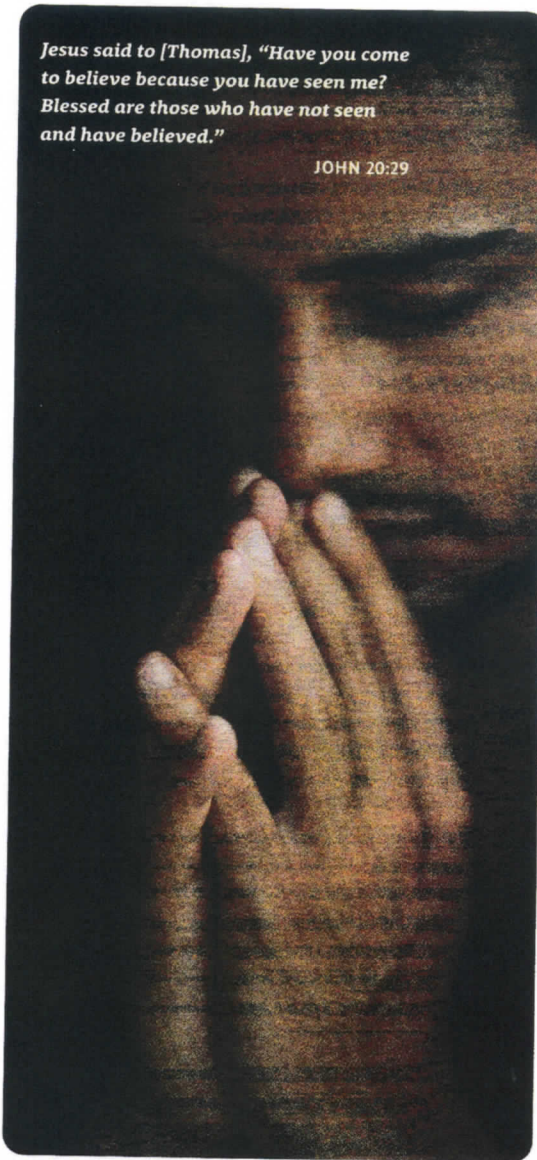
Sometimes that's true for us. We've heard the truth, but we haven't experienced the truth as real or relevant or something we cannot live without. The experience of grave need and then surrendering to God is what many need to remain faithful. Meanwhile, the faithful pray for those who do not believe, especially those we dearly love. ●

Reflect

Have you ever surrendered to faith even when you were filled with doubt?

Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

JOHN 20:29



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. RanJan Cletus

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com

Website: marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Saturday 5:30PM & Sunday 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tues., Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor to schedule a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

APRIL 7, 2024 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER—SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

Three times in today's Psalm we cry out a victory shout: "His mercy endures forever." Truly we've known the everlasting love of God, who has come to us as our Savior. By the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' pierced side (see [John 19:34](#)), we've been made God's children, as we hear in today's Epistle.

Yet we never met Jesus, never heard Him teach, never saw Him raised from the dead. His saving Word came to us in the Church—through the ministry of the apostles, who in today's Gospel are sent as He was sent. He was made a life-giving Spirit (see [1 Corinthians 15:45](#)) and He filled His apostles with that Spirit. As we hear in today's First Reading, they bore witness to His resurrection with great power. And through their witness, handed down in the Church through the centuries, their teaching and traditions have reached us (see [Acts 2:42](#)).

We encounter Him as the apostles did—in the breaking of the bread on the Lord's day (see [Acts 20:7](#); [1 Corinthians 16:2](#); [Revelation 1:10](#)). There is something liturgical about the way today's Gospel scenes unfold. It's as if John is trying to show us how the risen Lord comes to us in the liturgy and sacraments. In both scenes it is Sunday night. The doors are bolted tight, yet Jesus mysteriously comes. He greets them with an expression, "Peace be with you," used elsewhere by divine messengers (see [Daniel 10:19](#); [Judges 6:23](#)). He shows them signs of His real bodily presence. And on both nights the disciples respond by joyfully receiving Jesus as their "Lord." Isn't this what happens in the Mass—where our Lord speaks to us in His Word, and gives himself to us in the sacrament of His body and blood?

Let us approach the altar with joy, knowing that every Eucharist is the day the Lord has made—when the victory of Easter is again made wonderful in our eyes.



Bulletin Information: MARAK: Irene Kaulfus (254-248-2069) ikaufus15@gmail.com
CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)
Bulletin deadline: Please call or e-mail info by Wednesday before the weekend!

MINISTRIES FOR APRIL 14, 2024

Rosary: Raymond Tomek

Eucharistic Minister: Judy Vaculin

Lector: Kelly Laurence

Offertory: Ronald & Irene Kaulfus

Ushers: Richard Brenek & Charles Teague

Servers: Lily, Adison, Ian



Sanctuary Light: April 8th—April 14th: Stephanie B. Krumnow by Merlene Slavik

Prayer Chain... Please pray for Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Laddie Dohnalik, Joseph Ribar, Kay & Ed Moraw and Paulette Foster and those in need in the Book of Prayers. Prayers are powerful as we pray daily for those in need. To be added to the prayer chain:

Please contact: Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net

MARAK MASSES—April 7—April 14, 2024

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—4/7	10:15am	+ Joe & Stefina Vansa by Robert & Debbie Vansa + Jerry Wade by George & Linda Dohnalik
4/10—Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Stanley Hubnik by Billy & Mary Ann Seaton
4/14—Sunday	10:15am	+ Stephanie Krumnow by Merlene Slavik + Helen Moriarty by Cecilia Marak

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **SECOND COLLECTION TODAY** for Building and Maintenance Fund.
- **TODAY:** St. Monica's Ladies Society Annual Fundraiser—11 am till 2 pm or sold out—Simon George Hall—Dine-in or drive-thru—Bar-B-Que Chicken & Sausage—\$15/plate.
- **APRIL 17TH:** St. Anne's Altar Society will be meeting on Wednesday, April 17th @ 11:30 at Dairy Queen in Cameron.
- **APRIL 19TH:** 12th Anniversary Hope Night Celebrating "High Rollers & Baby Strollers" at Milam County Cowboy Church @ 6 pm. Live Auction, Card games, Silent Auction, Catered Dinner/Dessert Bar. Tickets \$50/person. See Patsy Gaines for tickets. See flyer on bulletin board for more information.
- **APRIL 24TH:** Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 24th @ 6 pm.
- **THANK YOU:**
 - To the Altar Society for their hard work during Lent and Easter decorating the Church. Also, a special thanks to the men who helped as well.
 - To everyone who participated in Holy Week Ministries-Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Organist and to all who helped prepare for the Masses.
 - To all who donated in memory of a loved one for the Easter Flowers, which made our Altars so beautiful for Easter.
 - To all the families that joined in the fun at the Easter Egg hunt last Sunday that was sponsored by the KC's and KJZT Jrs. Your participation made it a success. Everyone had a great time!
 - God's Blessing's to All!
- **SEMINARIAN APPEAL:** Your prayers for more vocations are working, and this year we anticipate having 49 men studying to be diocesan priests. With this growth comes increased financial responsibility, as it costs nearly \$70,000 per year for the formation of each seminarian. To participate in the diocesan Seminarian Appeal, please visit www.austindiocese.org/donate.

3-31: Sunday Offering: \$2,874.00 Children's Offering: \$18.00
Easter Offering: \$525.00 Good Friday-Holy Land: \$667.00
Ashes to Easter: \$320.04

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Dear Padre,

What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Pope John Paul II declared Sr. Faustina Kowalska a saint of the Church on April 30, 2000, and in a decree dated May 23, 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that "throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that [we] will experience in the years to come."

Saint Faustina was born in 1905 and spent most of her life in Poland, in the Congregation of the Virgin Mary of Mercy. She experienced an extraordinary union with God. She received exceptional graces, revelations, visions, hidden stigmata, the ability to read souls, and the gift of prophecy.

One of the images that was revealed to Faustina was that of the merciful Jesus, touching his Sacred Heart, from which beams of red and white light came forth. This image and her devotion to the divine mercies gathered thousands of supporters throughout the world. We still see the traditional image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in many of our churches today. In some churches, we might see the newer image, inspired by the saint. Saint Faustina Kowalska died in 1938 at the age of thirty-three, leaving an impressive mystical legacy. She is a disciple of God's divine mercy for the twenty-first century. ●



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13	April 14
Annunciation of the Lord	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Third Sunday of Easter
Is 7:10-14; 8:10	Acts 4:32-37	Acts 5:17-26	Acts 5:27-33	Acts 5:34-42	Acts 6:1-7	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
Heb 10:4-10	Jn 3:7b-15	Jn 3:16-21	Jn 3:31-36	Jn 6:1-15	Jn 6:16-21	1 Jn 2:1-5a
Lk 1:26-38						Lk 24:35-48



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The story of Thomas is in fact the story of every believer. There are times of difficulty when life seems to belie faith, moments of crisis when we need to touch and see. Like Thomas, it is precisely in those moments that we rediscover the heart of Christ, the Lord's mercy.

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 24, 2022



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