



“So much left to do”

The impact of Easter, in the early Church, and hopefully again in our time, is for believers to gather, to be together to contemplate the mystery of the Lord's resurrection, to let it touch minds and hearts, and to reaffirm for us, once again, that we do not live - we cannot live - in isolation.

The Gospel incident with Thomas also highlights this same sense of community. The disciples gathered together, partly in fear and wonder, and partly because they needed each other's support. When Jesus appeared to them, He offered them His gift of peace, and urged them to make mutual forgiveness the very first sign of their faith in the resurrection. Jesus reaches out to all of

us as he did Thomas and reminds us all: "Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believe." Jesus wants us to be together with those who share their faith, so that we can be strengthened, consoled, and nourished. The Risen Lord clearly invites all of us to be evangelists, to give powerful, personal and communal witness to our faith, and so to lead many others out of the prison of their aloneness into the joy-filled, peace-filled, and forgiveness-filled community of faith that is the reality of Church.

Faith in the resurrection of Jesus means much more than just believing that He has come back to life. It also means that we come to a deeper understanding of what Church really is - especially now, in these extraordinary times. Jesus rises to new life to bring to perfection His work of redemption. He rises to continue to teach, to heal, to forgive, to

commission until the end of time, and He does that in and through His Body the Church.

As we look toward Pentecost, let us pray that the Spirit of the Risen Lord breathe into our hearts a burning desire to be faithful witnesses to His Easter Light and Joy. Let us pray that our fears and anxieties may give way to the peace and comfort that only hope in Him can bring.



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