

2nd Sunday of Easter “B”
2018 (1st Communion Weekend)

There is something inside of us that makes us want to root for St. Thomas today. We feel for him – and we cringe when we hear his response each year. When he says something that we all know he’s going to regret later. *“Unless I see it myself, I’m not going to believe it!”*

The funny thing is that Thomas feels like he’s the sane one in the group – the rest of them must be crazy! He’s rational—well-spoken and intelligent. But the others are fishermen and maybe those who would be prone to believing such a tall tale. Maybe the grief of the last few days had finally just gotten to them. Thomas could think of no other explanation as to why those who saw the bloody death of the crucifixion could even speak of the resurrection from the dead.

But then Jesus comes to him. Jesus makes his presence known and comes to Thomas. You can just feel that hot tingling of embarrassment that must have come over his face as Jesus stands right in front of him. But rather than turn away and try to explain his actions – Thomas simply believes. *“My Lord and my God...”* Thomas just believes.

I suppose that the reason that we root for Thomas inside is because we realize that being human is to doubt. We know that it’s part of who we are to question and to have things proven to us. Remember the endless string of “Why’s?” that little ones badger us with – and the “Let me see!” that comes from them each time something new comes around.

Our minds and our intellects usually have it all figured out – and so we become doubters of everything else. This is true even in our faith. We have all our actions toward each other rationalized – we are well spoken in our desire to do good – we’re sane intelligent people – and our belief system is intact. That

is until illness, unkindness, or even death itself makes even the best of us doubt.

But then Jesus comes to us – he always comes to us. He comes in simple and complex ways. He is present in our waking thoughts – in the beauty of the world around us – in the laughter of a friend – the smile of a stranger and in the hearts and hopes of our little ones who make first communion this weekend. Jesus makes his presence known and meets us where we are. And we can either turn away – or we can believe. *“My Lord and my God.”*

Thank goodness that St. Thomas lived in a loving community that took care of each other. Their needs were taken care of because everyone shared the gifts that they had – so in this community Thomas’ faith was allowed to doubt – and allowed to deepen and grow.

Our community is much the same. We must continue to be a loving community – and always hold our faith and our hopes and our miracles in common. We must never have someone among us in need because we haven’t shared our gifts. We must be a community that surrounds those in doubt with the love that Jesus showed for Thomas. We must hand on this gift of faith to those who come after us.

Our example and our love and our sharing of ourselves is what will help our children – and all of us – to find Christ wherever we go in the world. To say, *“My Lord and my God.”* in all that we face. May we like St. Thomas always keep the faith!