

2nd Sunday of Easter “Saint Thomas, Saint Martin and Saint Faustina”

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Legend has it that a very holy 4th century saint, St. Martin of Tours, had an experience of seeing what looked to be the Risen Lord appearing before him. The vision of the Lord was of course beautiful. Jesus' vestments were splendid and he wore an extravagant crown. St. Martin wasn't convinced however. He was able to correctly know that the vision of what he was seeing was not the Lord at all but a demon disguised as the Lord. When the demon asked how he saw through his disguise, St. Martin essentially responded, “You have no wounds. The Risen Lord has wounds.” This is a remarkable insight and a great way of approaching this Gospel reading today because when Jesus appears before the eleven and what do we find? The Risen Lord has wounds, glorified wounds. Wounds that no longer hurt, but rather have become a source of strength, able to forgive the sins of the world!

Now, I am still of the firm opinion that wounds by themselves are stupid. Right? Wounds hurt. Who wants to be wounded, raise your hands! No one wants to be wounded. And the worst wounds we experience in this life aren't the ones that come from illness or surgery, are they? The worst wounds we carry around in us are the hurts inside of our hearts, painful memories or moments we wish we could have back. However, when we allow the Risen Lord into our lives, wounds no longer have to be stupid, festering, hurting cancers of the soul. The Risen Lord can transform our wounds into glorified wounds, holy wounds, that can become a source of strength and healing to others if we only unite our suffering to Christ's suffering and then unite his Resurrection to our own Easter hope. Then wounds no longer would have to suck us dry day after day. Through conversion, we can gain strength from injustices committed against us as much as we can learn from our own mistakes. Our transformed wounds can then become a source of strength and motivation, influencing us to do little things to help Jesus heal a wounded world, thirsting for God's healing love.

My friends, what are your wounds? Think about it for a moment, what are your wounds? Now can you trust your wounds to Jesus? Ask yourself that, can you trust your wounds to Jesus? In the Gospel today, Jesus showed his wounds to Thomas. Now Thomas is an apostle and saint that many of us can relate with. Thomas was the one who said, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” And we can all relate with that. At times, we have all had our doubts. Perhaps, more than a few people here this weekend come with hurts and doubts. Thomas is your patron saint today.

Now notice that Jesus waited a week before appearing before Thomas. For a wounded, hurting soul, a week can be a long time. In the Spirit Life, God does take his time. He waits for the perfect moment. He made the Hebrews wait 40 years, made them wander in the desert. Thomas needed a week. Thomas and the other disciples were in the upper room with the doors locked and Jesus appeared before them and said “Peace be with you”. He then showed Thomas his wounds. Jesus invited Thomas to touch his

wounds. Now Thomas was a wounded, doubting soul. What was Jesus' remedy for Thomas' infirm soul? Jesus gave Thomas his wounds, his glorified wounds. And then Thomas proclaims, "My Lord and my God".

My friends, today is Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Faustina had a vision of the Risen Lord. St. Faustina's vision of the Risen Lord has a remarkable display of what glorified wounds mean. From the side of Christ, water and blood shine out like rays of the sun. The water represents the water of Baptism and the blood represents Holy Eucharist. In St. Faustina's diary about the origin of this Feastday, Jesus told her **"...tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon the souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.... Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy"**. (Diary 699)

Under the image is St. Faustina's prayer that we all ought to pray when we have doubts or hurts. Jesus I trust in you. This is a really great prayer. Jesus I trust in you. This prayer is medicine for the soul when we are suffering from hurts or anxieties, Jesus I trust in you. It is also a really great prayer for when you are in an ambulance or in a hospital room or anxious about the next appointment with the doctor, Jesus I trust in you. It is a great prayer when troubles surface at home, at work, in the world, Jesus I trust in you.

My friends, Thomas was wounded and doubtful. He was wounded by the grief caused by the events he experienced the previous week. And Jesus made him live with his wounds for a time. And then Jesus appeared before him and gave Thomas his glorified wounds. Christians, we all have wounds and doubts. We have a beautiful sacrament called reconciliation that can help us with our wounds and doubts. We also have the sacrament of the anointing of the sick that recognizes that the soul needs healing too. We also are given Jesus, body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist as heavenly food and heavenly medicine. Can we come to the altar today with our hurts? Can we let Christ's Body and Blood cleanse our body and blood? Can we let Jesus' wounds transform our wounds? As Church, we pray over and over again in our moments of doubt or worry, Jesus I trust in you.