

Being a True Witness to Christ's Resurrection

Today is the 2nd Sunday of Easter which is called also Low Sunday when compared with the previous Sunday- *the Sunday of Sundays*. Today is also the Divine Mercy Sunday following the request of Pope (St.) John Paul II in 2000. In all these, we celebrate the love and mercy of God which has its culmination in the resurrection of Christ: the victory of Christ over death, sin, and Satan. The resurrection of Christ remains the bedrock and the summit of our Christian faith as St. Paul rightly described it, "if Christ has not been raised then our preaching is without substance, and so is your faith" (I Cor. 15: 14).

The first reading, the book of the Acts of the Apostles, summarizes how the first Christian community bore witness to the resurrection through the life of selflessness and generosity, a practical example of what Jesus commanded them to do as St. John describes clearly in the second reading. The Gospel continues the account of Jesus' appearance after the resurrection which we have been reading throughout this Easter octave. The Gospel has three central messages: the pouring of peace to the disciples, the commissioning-empowerment with the gift of Holy Spirit, to bind and loose (the basis of the Church teachings on the Sacrament of Reconciliation), and the case of Thomas.

Let us reflect more on what Thomas did. We may blame Thomas for being doubtful, but we have to remember that as of the time of his doubts, the fact of Christ's resurrection was not clear, even to other disciples. Worthy to emulate is the humility of Thomas, as soon as he was cleared, he accepted the message entirely and went ahead to bear witness to it. We are called to accept in humility the truths of our faith and to be true witnesses to what we believe. We pray that the good Lord will open our hearts and minds to welcome the truth of our faith in all its fullness and to be true witnesses to Christ's resurrection. Amen.

"If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31).