



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.

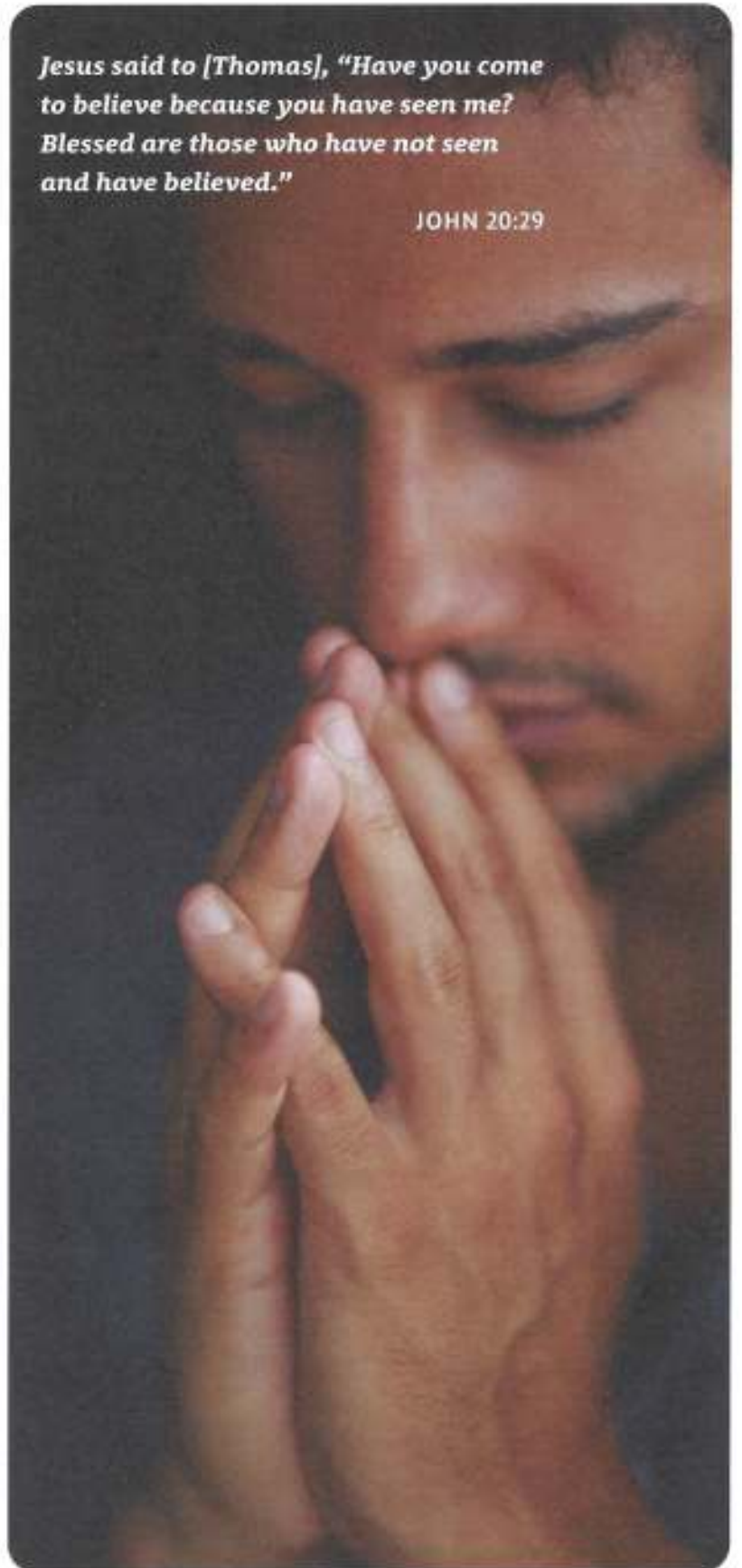
Sometimes that's true for us. We've heard the truth, but we haven't experienced the truth as real or relevant or something we cannot live without. The experience of grave need and then surrendering to God is what many need to remain faithful. Meanwhile, the faithful pray for those who do not believe,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





Holy Trinity

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Office Hours
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St. Thomas More

St Thomas More Catholic Church
302 Chestnut St.
Dalzell, IL 61320
Phone 815-663-6201
Email
thomasmore32@gmail.com

Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
9 am - 6 pm



St. Patrick

St. Patrick Catholic Church
106 Church St.
Arlington, IL 61312
Phone 815-894-2006
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Website for the Three Churches
www.bureaucatholic.org
and on Facebook at
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

Facebook for the Three Churches
Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall
Sunday, April 7th - 5th & 8th Grades
Sunday, April 14th - K thru 4th Grades

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of April 8, 2024

Monday	4/8			+ No Mass
Tuesday	4/9	9:00 am	STM	+ Rose White
Wednesday	4/10	5:30 pm	HT	+ Charlie & Hazel Keutzer
Thursday	4/11	9:00 am	HT	+ Jack & Theresa McCallum
Friday	4/12	9:00 am	STM	+ Liz Olivero

Mass Intentions for the weekend of April 13 - 14, 2024

Saturday	4/13	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ For the Parishioners
Sunday	4/14	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ Bob Lehn
		10:30 am	St Patrick	+ Mary Jane Smith
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Temporarily Suspended

Divine Mercy Sunday Reflection

How can anyone argue against Divine Mercy Sunday?

Divine Mercy is hope wrapped up in a loving God, ever ready to embrace us and forgive even our gravest sins. Believing in God, but not in Divine Mercy, would be a depressing and burdensome faith to bear.

Divine Mercy is often associated with the visions and private revelations of St. Faustina. Pope John Paul II had a great devotion to this Polish nun. When he declared the Second Sunday of Easter to be Divine Mercy Sunday, many took it as a papal decree to promote the devotions described in Faustina's "Diary," such as venerating the Divine Mercy image and praying the Chaplet.

As Catholics, we have a soft spot for devotions and devotionals. It's part of our hands-on, sacramental nature. But we are also a diverse bunch. What speaks to one, may not speak to another. Devotions and belief in private revelations – even if approved and recommended by the Church – are not mandatory. Offering a special Mass that includes the Divine Mercy devotions for those who wish it is a good thing.

Perhaps we need to spend less time worrying about bringing back the "hardened sinners," and more time showing mercy to those struggling to stay despite personal hurts and rejection. We need to reach out to those who have one foot out the door, or who have already had the door closed on them.

As we meditate in gratitude for God's gracious mercy shown to us, we should look honestly at the mercy that we show to others. Our God is a God of mercy. Are we Catholic people of mercy?

(Excerpted from Isabella R. Moyer, "ncronline.org")

Church Announcements

Oh! What A Successful Fundraising Year

A big hand to the SP fundraising team members for being very successful with their hard working efforts: last December 2023 Sausage Sales \$11,748.21; March 2024 Sausage Sales \$9,290.10 and breakfast \$1,934.98, which totaled \$21,038.31. Wes Gillan was the 50/50 winner from the breakfast. May the Lord repay them abundantly for their sacrifices.

Heartfelt Words of Gratitude

The 2023-2024 season for the ravioli/tortalach fundraiser at STM ended Wed. March 27th. A special thank you to all who came so faithfully once or twice a week to make the product, especially those who came from neighboring towns. It has been a very successful year thanks to all your time, efforts, and sacrifices. A heartfelt gratitude to Ilene Shaw; we would not have been as successful without her. A report will follow soon.

How to Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Use Rosary beads and
start at the cross.



- 1 Make the Sign of the Cross, then pray the following:
O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!
- 2 Lord's Prayer (Our Father)
- 3 Hail Mary
- 4 Apostles' Creed
- 5 For each of the five sets of beads, on the large bead, say:
Eternal Father, I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
- 6 On each of the ten smaller beads, say:
For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
- 7 After reciting this set of prayers five times (on all five decades), conclude by saying the following prayer three times:
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
End by making the Sign of the Cross.

Teaching
Catholic
KIDS
2023

LATEST OFFERING'S

MAR 31ST WEEKEND

HT – \$3,133.00

HOLY LAND \$156.75

SP – \$753.00

HOLY LAND \$105

STM – \$1,325.00

HOLY LAND \$130

Mass intentions are \$10.00.

Anyone homebound or in the nursing home wanting to receive Communion or a visit with Fr. Thaddeus should call the office at 815-894-2006 to schedule a time.

CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE
SAT. APRIL 13TH
10:30 - 11:15 AM AT
ST THOMAS MORE
IN THE HALL

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
<i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>
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