

2nd Sunday of Easter 2018

A priest was forced by a traffic policeman, to pull over for speeding. As the cop was about to write the ticket, the priest said to him, "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*" The cop handed the priest the ticket and said, "*Go, and sin no more.*"

On this Divine Mercy weekend our Gospel has Jesus appearing to the disciples in a locked room and saying, "Peace be with you and Thomas responded....My Lord and My God."

And now the hard part begins!.....How's that you might ask?.....Well, we have put Good Friday away for another year.....the tomb of Holy Saturday has a vacant sign out front and the angels have declared that He has risen and is not to be found among the dead.

From Jesus' standpoint the strife is over and the battle won. So what more is there to do? At the appointed time Jesus will return to call home those that recognize His voice.

You see, the hard part I'm talking about is OURS. The preparation has been realized in Jesus' resurrection. It is now time for us to do OUR part and LIVE the message of Jesus' risen life each day.

We find ourselves in much the same situation as the disciples in our Gospel today.

On that evening of the first day of the week when the disciples had gathered behind locked doors for fear of the Jews...Jesus came and stood before them and said..."Peace be with you."

You see, I think much of life can be locked up in fear. Fear of failure, fear of the loss of a loved one, fear of marriage, fear of loneliness, fear of the loss of a job, and on and on and on.

Our reading goes on to indicate that *into* our fear Jesus comes with the words we need to hear..."Peace be with you."

These words of peace don't come easily or without struggle, but we need to hear them and risk loving and trusting those words.

We CAN accept our cross today and the one that will come tomorrow. WHY? Because Jesus went before us to show us the way that leads to life. Life with Him and the Father in unity with the Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you.....Can you **hear** these words?

Can you **accept** these words?

More importantly, can you **share** these words?

St. Thomas became a believer because he saw, and blest are those who have not seen and have believed. Jesus said, "Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe," St. Thomas responded.....My Lord and My God.

How are you responding?

Peace be with you! Amen.