

APRIL 11, 2021 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Happy Easter again. Today is second Sunday of Easter and the last day of Octave of Easter. And it is also Sunday of Divine Mercy.

Last Sunday, we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. Today, we celebrate the resurrection of Thomas. When Jesus appeared to his disciples, Thomas wasn't there. Since he didn't see Jesus, he didn't believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Thomas was dead in his faith. Now Jesus came back to raise him up from the dead. Jesus started all over. He came and stood in midst of his disciples. He said again, "Peace be with you!" He repeated everything for Thomas. The faith of Thomas was restored. His faith was totally dead, and it was resurrected by Jesus. The resurrection of Thomas began with the patient mercy of Jesus.

Jesus never gives up any of his disciples. He never tires of reaching out to us. As he was resurrected from death, he wants us to rise from death. He comes again for anyone who is not resurrected yet. Our faith is very weak like a toddler. A toddler keeps falling. Jesus knows that we keep falling in our faith. Jesus helps us to stand up again whenever we fall. Finally, there will be the moment that we stand without falling, and then we will confess "My Lord and my God," as Thomas confessed.

Today's gospel says, "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book." Pope Francis said that the Gospel is the book of God's mercy, to be read and reread, because everything that Jesus said and did is an expression of the Father's mercy. However, not everything was written down. The Gospel of mercy remains an open book. We are all called to become living writers of the Gospel. We can do this by practicing the works of mercy.

Today we have to witness our own resurrection. Our resurrection will be made by the mercy of God. God shows us his infinite mercy all the times. And as God is merciful to us, he also wants us to be merciful to others.

Fr. James