

## Reflection on the Second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday

**First Reading: Acts 2:42-47**

**Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24**

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

**Gospel: John 20:19-31**

“I’ll believe it, when I see it.” Have you ever said that? There is so much we can doubt in life. Politicians telling us what they are going to do when they get elected, but they don’t do it. A salesperson telling us this car is the best, and it really wasn’t. This diet will make you lose 10 lbs. in two weeks, and it didn’t.

Do we sometimes throw God into this category of “I’ll believe it, when I see it”? Jesus tells us to follow him, but sometimes we doubt because we can’t see him, or better yet, we can’t see him working in our lives.

In the Gospel of John, the Risen Lord appeared to the disciples and they believed. Thomas, one of the Twelve, missed it; he was probably was running late (just my own interpretation). I’m pretty sure I would have missed it too. There are some of you out there saying, “Yes Father, you would have missed it.” Others are saying, “We’re right behind you, Father.” Thomas missed it and basically said to the disciples who saw Jesus, “I’ll believe you, when I see him.”

Do we need to see everything to believe?

- Do we see the wind?
- Do we see the smell of bacon?
- Do we see a flower *actually* growing out of the dirt?
- Do we see God working in our lives *all* the time?
- Do we see the Body and Blood in the host?

For the most part you can answer “no” to all of these.

Just because we can’t see the wind, do we say we don’t believe in the wind? Do we say we don’t believe in God, just because we can’t see God, or God working in our lives at *every* moment? The answer “yes” would not seem to be a rational answer.

God is definitely there in all of this, even though we don't see what he is doing. He is there because our faith tells us so. I have heard it said, as we get older, we have fewer answers. At the same time, I believe as we get older, we have more trust and faith in our all-knowing, all-powerful God.

However, we can also believe in things we can't see such as a virus. Most of us believe in the virus, but we can't see it. To fight that fear, let us have faith in the unseen God to fight this unseen virus. Let our Lord increase our faith and hope by looking at the beautiful signs of nature with all the birds chirping, flowers blooming, and trees budding! Let our Lord increase our faith and hope by looking at the miracle of a newborn baby with its little nose, mouth, ears, fingers and toes! Let our Lord increase our faith and hope by noticing the organization of nature and how everything works together. Let our Lord increase our faith and hope by knowing the incredible love and mercy he shows for each one of us. I've always said, that as we notice these gifts from God it is easier to believe than not to believe!

Today, we also celebrate Diving Mercy Sunday, when Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in Poland in 1931 and told her to share the image of him through a painting. Jesus also told St. Faustina to put these words at the bottom of the painting, **“Jesus, I trust in you.”** (See our painting of the Divine Mercy image on the next page.) When we doubt God because of worries and fear, replace those thoughts with, **“Jesus, I trust in you.”**

You'll find that you won't say, “I'll believe it, when I see it,” but just say,

**“I believe!”**

Let us continue to pray for a vaccine for this virus so we can all be safe and return to our normal lives. At the same, when we do doubt, help us Lord to **TRUST IN YOU!**

Also, let us continue to pray for those infected with this virus and all those who are affected indirectly – especially our healthcare workers, cleaners, and all those who are considered “necessary” workers. We humbly ask, Lord, for those of us out of work, that we may safely return to work very soon. May God protect you and bless you. Amen.

God bless,

Fr. Mark Speitel



Jesus, I Trust in You