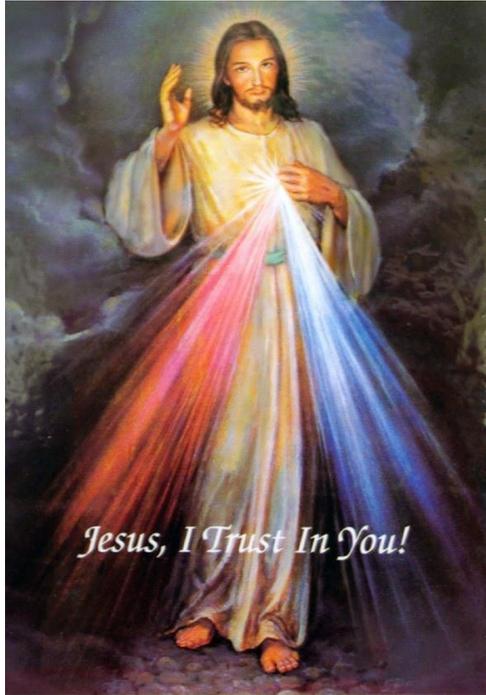


“Jesus, I Trust in You”

In yesterday’s Gospel, Jesus rebuked the apostles for their *“unbelief and hardness of heart”* as they struggled with reports of His Resurrection. In the same vein, today we read the well-known story of “doubting” Thomas who said, *“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”* So Jesus appeared yet again to His disciples and specifically gave Thomas the exact physical proof he sought. Thomas, now believing, responded, *“My*



Lord and my God!” but Jesus quickly turned this encounter into a deeper teaching moment about the importance of Faith: You *“believe because you have seen me... Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”* This is a very critical point Jesus is making: Thomas, you now believe because of firsthand physical proof – but that’s not faith. Blessed are those who have faith...

What is so important about Faith, this *“assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”* (Heb 11:1)? In a word: Everything!! We are SAVED through faith (Eph 2:8), HEALED by faith (Mk 5:34). With faith we can move mountains and cast out demons (Mt 17:19-20), tread on snakes and scorpions (Lk 10:19), ride out storms (Mt 8:26). If Christ is the Cornerstone and we are the living stones, faith can be seen as the mortar that binds us (see Mt 21:42, Eph 2:20-21, 1 Pet 2:4-6). There are many other examples and Scripture citations, but the bottom line is: Without faith, it is IMPOSSIBLE to please Him (Heb 11:6).

Over and over, Christ pounds home the importance of our faith. On this Divine Mercy Sunday, may we mirror St. Faustina’s beautiful faith expressed in her Chaplet of the Divine Mercy: very simply, “Jesus, I trust in you.”

Peace,

Dcn Ron

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<http://usccb.org/bible/readings/041920.cfm>