

I Second Sunday of Easter – Cycle C

April 28, 2019

Christ the Good Shepherd, ORCC

Reflection by Father Charles Blanchard

First Reading: Acts 5:12-16

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

Second Reading: Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Today, April 28, 2019, our Easter story continues where you and I gather to hear God's Word and feast at this Table where there is no partiality.

Welcome Home!

To our enduring parishioners; to our new found friends visiting today; and to our neophytes, I want you to know you're golden, loved immeasurably and precious in God's eyes, Welcome Home!

Jesus said to him, (Thomas) "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

For the past 6 months, Ann Marie, Monsignor Harry, Father Michael and I have had the privilege to accompany our RCIA neophytes on the path to the Easter sacraments we celebrated last Saturday evening.

- Wow!
- What a gift it has been!
- Wow!

You and I have 'Thomas' days when **we believe little and lament a lot**. Days exist where you and I toil in fear, doubt and disbelief. We live in a culture where 'seeing is believing' and nothing else will do.

My sisters and brothers, one of the greatest gifts in ministry has been to walk the journey with others in the RCIA process. Whenever my faith was lagging; whenever my evening hour of tiredness and sundowner syndrome had a hold grip on me, it got a boost every RCIA Thursday when we gathered to learn, share, question and challenge. It was life-changing for all of us on the team and in the parish to watch Cheryl, Debbie, Anthony and Thomas grow in faith right before our very eyes!

There is a common adage, 'there are no atheists in foxholes'. Well, I'm here to tell you, there aren't any non-believers in an RCIA community either!

Neophytes may also have their 'Thomas' days during this long process, but they are committed for the long haul. I am sure they were anxious about what the process asks of them, but their tenacity and belief in their call kept all of us on our toes and renewed our FAITH on a regular basis!

Holy Mother Church in her humanness is a mess at times, but celebrating the Easter sacraments with these four special people has given us; whether you were in the class or not, a renewed sense of hope that in spite of the messiness; in spite of the fear, doubt and disbelief of our lives, you and I will be okay. We continue to be nurtured by the faith of our newly baptized and professed and give thanks for their giftedness to us and the entire Church.

Happy Easter Season and remember: JESUS is ALIVE! ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

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