

April 7-8, 2018

Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 4:32-35

First John 5:1-6

John 20:19-31

While cosmetic surgery can obscure the exterior scars from unfortunate/painful accidents or incidents, the interior/psychic scars last a lifetime. Those fortunate to have a strong network of family and friends can frequently heal and pass beyond these wounds, while some struggle for a lifetime trying to put behind them the memories that haunt them. Each scar, whether it be upon our flesh or within our psyche, has a story attached to it. We remember what caused it, who may have been involved, our immediate response at the time and how we were changed because of what we experienced. While our cosmetically-inclined society might see our scars as disfiguring and the 'be happy' attitude of our western culture encourages us to quickly forget about unpleasant experiences, our scars are testimony to the life we have lived and momentous moments when we learned something about ourselves and other people. It is healthy to periodically remember all that we have experienced so as to refresh our memory of how we have become the people we are today. In this very same way, this weekend we honor the Apostle Thomas. Being absent the first time the Resurrected Jesus revealed himself to his companions, he is incredulous and disbelieving of their 'ludicrous' claims of having seen Jesus in the flesh. Truly, who can blame him, the notion of someone coming back to life after a cruel and vicious crucifixion would be the stuff of fantasy of delusion. In his 'sanity' and grief, Thomas throws down a spiritual gauntlet... 'until I put my finger in his wounds and my hand in his side, I will NOT believe.' Taking Thomas up on his dare, Jesus again appears to his disciples and invited Thomas to touch his wounds and put his hand within his side. Seeing is believing, at least for Thomas. For ourselves, by remembering and touching the wounds within our own lives, we are reminded of the healing strength of God who has enabled us to move beyond what hurt or crippled us. Our wounds become road signs to where the GRACE of God, where his PRESENCE has been in our life; our wounds are a treasure map for when we doubt or are despairing. So, rather than run, hide or attempt to disguise your WOUNDS...with the strength of Easter GRACE revisit them and see what new discoveries might await you.

Thank you for sharing this weekend of continued OPPORTUNITY to understand the meaning of Easter with our Santa Clara community. Please take a Bulletin with you as you head home and remember, you are loved. FKB