



From the Pastor's Desk:

Parish Finances: If you have been following our weekly collection graph, you will see that our normal weekly expenses exceed our weekly income. While the economy is part of it, the real problem is that those of you who are reading this are most likely our continuous and faithful financial supporters. What we need is financial support from those who can afford to give, come to Mass, but either do not support the parish or still think that giving the same \$1.00 or @2.00 is sufficient. We are working everyday to keep expenses down, but this is a large parish with many spiritual needs that we cannot address without balancing our weekly operational budget and building our income so we can afford the programs that will bring the faith of this incredible community of believers deeper into the hearts of our parishioners who come to Mass and to the majority who are away from the Church and need to come back to Christ in His Church.

If you are reading this, and you have legitimate financial struggles, read on and continue to support as you can with the blessings of Christ. If you are reading this and are one of our good supporters then read on and know that Christ blesses you. If you are reading this and give little or nothing then I beg you to pray to God for guidance to see the needs of your parish and begin giving generously. Remember, the Church is being repaired, updated and decorated through the generosity of "Parishioners" who are committed to the parish. Please join in their efforts.

School Finances: Now on a very positive note, last week I was very happy to send home to the parent of our DLPH Catholic School students a letter informing them that we have finally developed a "Balanced Budget" for the 2010 - 2011 school year. Base on the number of students presently registered for next year, the income from tuition, a parish subsidy of 25% of Sunday collections, Mandated Services reimbursement from NY State, Inter-parish support, Diocesan grants and continued efforts at Fund Raising for the school, we will be able balance the Expenditures for teaching, administrative staff and basic Operational Expenses. This is good news that requires a continued "open enrollment" for new students, 100% parent support for ALL fundraising events and ongoing efforts in "Marketing" to make DLPH School stand out among the rest by reporting our achievements through the area media. Look for our school in Newsday, South Bay, The Long Island Catholic and other area newspapers as well as child and parent publications. The more effort we put into building up the reputation of our school the more we will be a "Beacon of Hope" to the present and future needs of children.

Thank you for your support of the Tomorrow's Hope Foundation in last Sunday's second collection. Thank you to the students who spoke at Masses. Remember that Catholic Education is costly, but it is a sacrifice that our parents make for the sake of their children. Thanks to Tomorrow's Hope a number of our families have been given grants toward their students' tuition. **Each week in the bulletin you will see our DLP:H "Guardian Angel" program where YOU can give to support the tuition needs of our families. Money is tight for our families and some need just a little more help, and that is where we come in as a parish. Won't you help us? Be a "Guardian Angel" and help us quietly, yet specifically touch a family's life.**

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"Reflection on Hope and New Life after the Easter Feasts" (...continued from last week... PART 3)

By Thomas Rosica, CSB (Consulter to the Pontifical Council for Social Communications)

Thomas the Apostle

John's story of Jesus and Thomas records the first post-Resurrection appearance of Jesus and provides us with an archetypal experience of doubt, struggle and faith. Herein lies every Christian's experience: to believe without having seen. In this Gospel passage, we have a story within a story: the resolution of Thomas' doubts during Jesus' appearance to encourage the fearful disciples. Thomas only believes when he hears the Lord's call to belief. Thomas is not the eternal skeptic, nor the bullish, stubborn personality that the Christian tradition has often painted. The Greek lexicon translates the word "skepsis" as "doubt, misgiving, hesitation, and disbelief".

What do we do when something to which we have totally committed ourselves is destroyed before our very eyes? What do we do when someone to whom we have given total loyalty is suddenly crushed by powerful and faceless institutions? And what do we do when our immediate reaction in the actual moment of crisis is to run and hide, for fear of the madding crowds? Such were the questions of most of the people who had supported and followed Jesus of Nazareth for the better part of three years.

Both Jesus and Thomas were wounded by unbelief. Jesus died of the wounds inflicted by the unbelief of his disciples and of the people. Thomas was wounded by his inability to believe, and out of this wound bled his deepest disappointment. But Thomas was healed by Christ's wounds. He saw, even felt, the deadly injuries; but the one who bore them was living. Through them, life was victorious in Thomas. Thomas had to guardedly feel his way to faith until he recognized the truth in his heart. This was the beginning of his Easter. He could believe again.

Thomas, the doubter, was permitted to do something that we would all like to do. He was allowed to touch and "experience" something that by human means was not possible. For us it is more difficult. We need to begin with faith and then blindly touch our way to the heart of our lives. Centuries after Thomas, we remain forever grateful for the honesty and humanity of his struggle. The last word in the vocabulary of God is trust not betrayal, hope not despair, life not death. Though we know so little about Thomas, his family background and his destiny, we are given an important hint into his identity in the etymology of his name in Greek: Thomas (Dittymous in Greek) means "twin". Who was Thomas' other half, his twin? Maybe we can see his twin by looking into the mirror. Thomas' other half is anyone who has struggled with the pain of unbelief, doubt and despair, and has allowed the presence of the Risen Jesus to make a difference. **(...To be continued next week.)**

May God +bless you and yours now and forever,

Father Anthony