

Where do you get your news from?

For the past year or more, at breakfast time, I've sat at the table eating my breakfast while reading a conglomeration of news sources neatly arranged by an "app" on my iPad. Across the table from me, the now-retired rector of the Cathedral would be paging through the Saginaw paper and sometimes the Detroit paper.

When I go home, my parents turn on the television when the particular news show comes up - and watch the news on the TV.

And when I'm in my car, I listen to talk-radio and get my news that way.

In years past, people got their news either from word-of-mouth, maybe a royal or imperial decree read in a public area; or else they watched it happen first-hand. Since then, we've had various improvements in technology which have resulted in ... well, some might say improvements, and others might disagree.

In today's Gospel, we hear the familiar story of St. Thomas - a week after the Resurrection of Jesus.

Most likely, Thomas was an eye-witness to the death of Jesus outside the walls of Jerusalem on the Cross on Calvary.

Over the previous week, many of the other followers of Jesus have gone from disbelief to belief; and it would seem, Thomas is the last one.

Poor Thomas. He's remembered for this as "doubting Thomas" - but he wasn't that much different than the others.

Mary Magdalene thought Jesus was the gardener and asked Him where she could find the body. Peter and John didn't really believe until they'd examined the empty tomb and saw the burial cloths. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus most likely had a very spirited discussion with the risen Jesus as he accompanied them on their journey - yet after a lengthy conversation with Him ... they only recognized who He was ... as Scripture says ... "in the breaking of the bread."

But we don't hear about "doubting Mary Magdalene," "doubting Peter" or "doubting John." It's not the story of the "doubting disciples" on the way

to Emmaus. But Thomas gets the prize ... I guess for being the last and final hold-out among the disciples and the Apostles.

Scriptures tell us that Thomas had been told by the other disciples about the resurrection. But lest we think that “seeing is believing” was good enough for Thomas; it’s not. Thomas is pretty specific, going so far as to say:

*“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.”*

And after a week of this, Jesus comes and stands in their midst - Thomas is there this time as well. But Instead of giving Thomas a hard time, Jesus invites him to:

*“Put your finger here and see my hands,
and bring your hand and put it into my side,”*

And ends with the reason for this ... you see, Jesus was willing to let Thomas touch Him. Jesus goes out of His way so that Thomas may:

not be unbelieving, but believe.”

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. Let us pray that ... however we receive the Word of God in Scripture, prayer, and spiritual reading ... what ever way we may approach God in our own particular charism and mode of prayer ... that as we receive the Word of God under the appearance of Bread and Wine, the graces of this Sacrament may truly deepen our Faith in Jesus Christ in a new and powerful way.

May Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh ... the Son of the Father ... be known to us today and always ... so that we might say with St. Thomas when we encounter Him in a few moments ... *“My Lord and my God.”*