



Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Easter / (Sunday of Divine Mercy) (A)
April 12, 2026

The Gift of Doubts

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

When people tell me they have doubts about their faith, I usually tell them that doubts can be a good thing. “Reflect on your doubts,” I say. So very often, the doubts bring someone to deeper faith and understanding. When people say they’re not sure they believe in God anymore, often what they mean is that they don’t believe in a particular idea of God, like the bearded old man in the sky or a God who “allows” children to die of cancer and “permits” wars that slaughter people.

Sunday Readings

Acts 2:42–47

Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

1 Peter 1:3–9

You may have to suffer through various trials, so...the genuineness of your faith...may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

John 20:19–31

These [signs] are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah...and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

What such doubts ask us to do is to rethink our understanding of who God is. Tossing out our old idea of God does not mean there is no God. It simply means we had a faulty or immature notion of God. It may take some time to rethink who God is, but if we stay with it, do some reading, ask some questions, and pray over it, we may come to a deeper and richer understanding of God. In short, because I don’t understand how something can be does not mean that that something—or someone—is not true or real.

In this week’s gospel, Thomas, who was not with the community when Jesus appeared, later could not believe that the Jesus he had known was alive. He doubted. Yet, when he was with the community the following week, he discovered that the risen Lord was indeed real but in an entirely new reality. It takes a community of faith to become a believer. †



Our doubts ask us to rethink our understanding of who God is.

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

The Lord shows us his wounds and says: *Peace be with you.* Do not be afraid to show your wounds healed by mercy. Do not be afraid to draw close to those who are trapped in fear or guilt. May the breath of the Spirit make us, too, witnesses of this peace and this love that is stronger than any defeat.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME,
OCTOBER 1, 2025



REFLECTION
QUESTIONS
QUESTIONS
REFLECTION

- Do I think of doubt as an invitation or a temptation?
- Has my understanding of God changed over the years?



Strong(er) in Faith Together

The Redemptorists

We are much like St. Thomas. We like to understand God as we understand a textbook. Despite walking with Jesus for three years, Thomas and the other apostles did not see Jesus clearly. He was beyond their understanding. Faith is not contrary to reason but reason alone is not enough to comprehend God. Faith is believing in something beyond our intelligence. When Jesus says, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe,” he tells us, too. When Jesus came to the closed room, his first greeting was, “Peace be with you.” He brings peace. Faith relieves you of the fear of what others will say or how they will treat you. This is what the apostles were frightened of. Jesus’ appearance relieves the apostles of this fear so that they could publicly proclaim the same Jesus. Relief from fear gives us freedom. Freedom is not something to do everything we like; rather, freedom is to live responsibly with fellow beings.

The first reading tells us how the first Christian community

lived in peace. Their happiness depended not on the things they held but on the eternal life they would get. They could easily share everything and yet live happily. Many of us are also like St. Thomas when we are separated from the Church. Jesus appeared to them when they were together, but St. Thomas was not there. He missed the risen Jesus’ experience. This happens even today. People believe in God but refuse a community experience. Church is not a perfect society, just like at the time of Jesus. But we have to remember that Jesus created the Church as a community and gave it power as a community. An African proverb says, “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.” Our journey is long, and it is good to go forward as a community. †

Freedom is to live responsibly with fellow beings.

From *Redemptorist Daily Devotional 2026*, Liguori Publications (828966). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “*Divine Mercy: Following in the Footsteps of Saint Faustina*” by Fr. James White, CSsR

In his message for the fifty-ninth World Day of Peace, Pope Leo XIV spoke with urgency, begging believers to be witnesses to mercy: “The great parable of the Last Judgment invites all Christians to act with mercy. (See Matthew 25:31–46.) In doing so, they will find brothers and sisters at their side who, in different ways, have listened to the pain of others and freed themselves inwardly from the deception of violence.” The world needs the witness of disciples who embrace and practice mercy in their daily lives. Saint Faustina wrote, “Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to my merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace” (Diary, §1074). Humankind is aching. With St. Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament, we can each become a sign of God’s merciful love.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521, or visit Liguori.org.



Lord Jesus, when we are tempted to doubt that good triumphs over evil, that life is stronger than death, fill us with faith and hope, we pray. Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 13–18

Monday, Easter Weekday: Acts 4:23–31 / Jn 3:1–8

Tuesday, Easter Weekday: Acts 4:32–37 / Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday, Easter Weekday: Acts 5:17–26 / Jn 3:16–21

Thursday, Easter Weekday: Acts 5:27–33 / Jn 3:31–36

Friday, Easter Weekday: Acts 5:34–42 / Jn 6:1–15

Saturday, Easter Weekday: Acts 6:1–7 / Jn 6:16–21



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