

JULY 3, 2020
Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle
John 20: 24-29

“MY LORD, AND MY GOD.”

Today, we are celebrating the Feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle. According to tradition, “St. Thomas was born a Jew and was called to be one of the twelve Apostles. He lived before the formal establishment of the Catholic Church but is recognized as the patron saint of architects. He was a dedicated but impetuous follower of Christ. When Jesus said He was returning to Judea to visit His sick friend Lazarus, Thomas immediately exhorted the other Apostles to accompany Him on the trip which involved certain danger and possible death because of the mounting hostility of the authorities. At the Last Supper, when Christ told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them to which they also might come because they knew both the place and the way, Thomas pleaded that they did not understand and received the beautiful assurance that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. St. Thomas is best known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of his Master. Thomas' unwillingness to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday earned him the title of "doubting Thomas."¹ When the apostles told him that Jesus is risen, Thomas replied: “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”² But his character and personality made St. Thomas the first among the apostles, and the first person to recognize and confess Jesus' divinity by his words “My Lord and my God” when Jesus showed His side and hands, and His powerful words: “Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”³

My dear brothers and sisters, we have not witnessed the crucified Christ or His resurrection or He appeared to us, but our faith lead us to be joyful and happy. Like Thomas, this is also our test of faith. Even if we don't see Him, we believe because He is the Way, the

¹ www.catholic.org

² John 20: 25 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

³ John 20: 27 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

Truth, and the Life. Jesus is our Lord and our God, and we have faith in Him, rely on His words, and His life and deeds give us hope of eternal life. Therefore, let us ask the Lord to remove all our doubts, fears and anxiety and have a strong faith that in Him all are possible. Let us pray that He may draw near to us and trust in His life-giving word, and hope in the power of His resurrection. My brothers and sister, Jesus is telling us today and always remember His words: Do not doubt but believe!