

“Blessed are those that have not seen and have believed.”

The 2nd Sunday of Easter – Year A

ACTS 2:42-47, PS 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24, 1 PT 1:3-9, JN 20:19-31



Dcn. Frank Sila
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Thomas would not believe until he had seen and touched Jesus. At the Easter Vigil, we celebrated the Sacraments of initiation. Baptism, Confirmation and the reception of the Holy Eucharist are an initiation into a way of life. A way of seeing. The grace of these sacraments opens our heart and eyes to the Resurrected Christ in our world.

I remember fly-fishing once at the base of a waterfall. The mist from the fall was so fine that it could not be seen, yet, after an hour or so, my shirt was damp. God's grace is like that. Everywhere the mist fell there was green lichen and plants growing out of what appeared to be solid rock. No matter how rocky my life has been God's grace finds a way to grow something there.

Monsignor Bill Fitzgerald used to talk about the everyday sacraments of life that we encounter. Those sacraments may be a word of encouragement, a smile or a simple nod of recognition. These moments of grace fall as gently as the mist. These everyday sacraments are signs of God's presence so that, 'we who have not seen may believe.'

There was a young couple walking on the beach at sunset. They stopped to watch the fire of color unfolding before them. They had recently committed themselves and set a date. They were true north for each other. They exchanged no words and quietly held each other as the sun dipped below the water. Their love allowed them to see the sunset in a new way. It was a grace-filled moment. They felt a connectedness to something beyond their love.

"Blessed are those that have not seen and have believed." John 20:29

A scientist had wrestled with a problem of genetics for a number of years. One evening he was outside looking up at the multitude of stars and smiled at the possibility of a solution that had eluded him for so long. In the weeks to come, he was able to demonstrate his findings. In his moment of insight, he exclaimed, “So that’s how God did that…”

“Blessed are those that have not seen and have believed.” John 20:29

A farmer parks his tractor coming in from working the fields. He brushes the dust from his overalls as he walks from the barn to the house. He washes up and sits down to dinner. The vegetables before him were taken from their fields. The bread was made from wheat they had grown and milled in town. He smiled thinking of the great abundance. Joining hands with his family around the table, he asked a blessing, “Father we thank you for the gift of this food and the gift of your love. May this food strengthen and nourish us that we might grow in your Son’s life and love.”

“Blessed are those that have not seen and have believed.” John 20:29

A couple celebrate their love for each other and are told that they are with child. In the first trimester, the pediatrician indicates serious difficulties and a high risk pregnancy for both mother and child. A new doctor offers a second opinion with the same conclusion. The couple support each other in the remaining months. The hour is at hand and they are together in the delivery room. With one last push, they hear their newborn cry.

“Blessed are those that have not seen and have believed.” John 20:29

A grandfather holds his newborn granddaughter. The child sleeps against his chest, lulled by the rise and fall of his breathing. With closed eyes, Granddad exudes a quiet inner peace. Across the room, grandma watches and is touched by the circle of life before her.

“Blessed are those that have not seen and have believed.” John 20:29

Like Thomas, our doubts sometimes distract and we lose our bearing. In disbelief, we try to muddle through. In a moment of grace, Jesus enters. He enters our locked rooms, and whispers, “Peace be with you. Touch me. Know me. Feel my embrace in all the moments of your life. I am here with you for all time.”

God’s love and mercy urges us to draw closer. In the sacrament of the Eucharist, we do just that. We celebrate the Risen Christ with us.

Alleluia!

References

All scripture quotations are taken from;. (1987). *The New American Bible, Revised edition*. USCCB.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments. My email is fsila@sttomskazoo.org. (n.d.).