



My Lord and My God

The Resurrection is associated with joy and triumph, but it is also connected with fear and confusion. The apostles had heard the news that Jesus had risen from the dead. They were unsure and confused. Then Jesus appeared to them, greeted them, showed them the five wounds on His body. They recognized Him and were immediately filled with joy.

Thomas, of course, had not been present on that occasion. He refused to believe it was the Risen Christ until He could see and touch, trust the evidence of his own senses. Eight days later, when Jesus appeared again, He singled Thomas out. He invited him to see and touch, to doubt no longer, to believe. Thomas replied, My Lord and my God.

The first part of Thomas' response is not surprising, but the second is very surprising and unexpected. My Lord is a response to the evidence of his senses. He recognized the Jesus with whom he had walked, whose teachings he had heard. The response My God did not come from the evidence of his senses. Thomas had been granted a special revelation into the real nature of Jesus.

The apostles were privileged, they saw the risen Christ, the marks of His wounds. In the first appearance, Jesus told the Eleven something of what their apostolate would be. He was sent by the Father; He was sending them, into the world, among the nations, to communicate His teachings, to forgive sins, to reconcile man to the truth and to God.

This Easter Monday, we witnessed the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis I. Pope Francis was also privileged. He saw the wounds of Christ in the poor, the marginal, and the confused. His ministry to the universal Church was focused on the virtue of hope and the blessings of mercy. To Thomas, Jesus spoke about faith. To Francis, He revealed the necessity of mercy.

The Church is a believing community, a family of faith. Many find difficulty with believing and struggle to meet its demands. Many have forgotten the universality of God's saving love. We thank God for the gifts of Thomas and the gifts of Francis. They answered God's call to bring knowledge of the Father to many nations and peoples.

Fr. Hernan Cely

Pastor

