

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart,

“Ye sons and daughters let us sing! The King of heav’n, the glorious King,
O’er death today rose triumphing. Alleluia!”

Just as the beautiful fragrance of the Easter flowers still fills our Church, so the peace and joy of Easter Sunday is still experienced throughout the holy Octave of Easter. To look outside or take a pleasant stroll around and behold the springtime flowers, the flowering trees and the gentle green slowly covering the bare branches of winter is to know nature as God created it and called good in the very beginning. To feel the breath of the Lord’s peace come upon us, to recognize Him in the breaking of the bread, to taste and see that the Lord is good, to welcome Him through the locked doors of our hearts is to rejoice in our own true nature that God called very good in the beginning.

We hear in today’s Gospel about poor “Doubting Thomas” who refused to believe that the disciples had seen the Risen Lord. However, the Gospel for Saturday of the Octave of Easter also recounts that when Mary Magdalene who first saw the Risen Lord went to tell them, they refused to believe her and when the two disciples returned from the country to tell them that the Lord appeared to them, they did not believe. Later, the Lord Himself appeared to the Eleven and “rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart.”

Let us give thanks for those very first believers and all those disciples who eventually believed and brought the Good News to others, including loved ones, friends and teachers, neighbors and strangers who have brought the Gospel to us. On the Third Day for the Novena to Divine Mercy the Lord says to St. Maria Faustina: “Today bring to me all devout and faithful souls, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy.” St. Faustina prays: “Most Merciful Jesus, from the treasury of Your mercy, You impart Your graces in great abundance to each and all. Receive us into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart and never let us escape from It.

“Let those who fear the Lord say, His mercy endures forever.”

Father John