

## Homily for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

In 1776 George III was King of England. He kept a diary and every evening he would highlight the important events of the day. On July 4<sup>th</sup> in 1776, King George III wrote the following: “Nothing of importance happened today.” Obviously he was unaware of that gathering of visionary patriots who signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. Time would change that. But that first July 4<sup>th</sup> made no difference in the life of George III.

I wonder what the citizens of Jerusalem would have written in their diaries on the first Easter Sunday. My suspicion is that they might have written the exact same words: “Nothing of importance happened today.” They could have written those words because the people who did know about the resurrection were hiding out in an upper room...frightened to leave and obviously not giving much witness to the power of God in our world.

I have always found it humorous that the main character in today’s Gospel is always remembered to be short on faith and long on doubt. However, St. Thomas was not as faithless as we might think. Thomas came to that upper room and listened to the other disciples tell him about Christ appearing to them and sending them forth. Then he

pondered. He wondered...if this were true, why were the disciples still locked in this upper room? If they had seen Christ and Christ had lifted their faith, why were they still cowering in fear?

As they didn't live what they had seen, they gave little or no reason for Thomas to share their enthusiasm...as it seemed pretty hollow to him. But when he beheld Christ and uttered "my Lord and my God," he left that room and preached the Gospel all the way to India. Thomas was more a hero than a doubter.

I wonder what the non-Christian world would have written last Sunday when we were celebrating the great Feast of Easter. I have this gnawing feeling that they probably would have written: "Nothing of importance happened today." They might be tempted to conjecture that beyond churches being packed to the brim, there wasn't much evidence of faith in this Risen Savior.

The first reading today tells of how the early Christian community gave witness to the Lord by the manner in which they lived. We are told that they witnessed to Christ by the love they had for each other. How is our love for each other doing? And how is our love for those outside our small circle of friends being manifested?

The Gospel calls us to forgive. How forgiving are we? Or, do we just continue to carry our grudges? How often do we say: "I just can't

forgive”? How often do we fail to look into the eyes of Christ and ask Him for the grace to be as forgiving to others as He is to us?

The single most important event in the history of the world is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Nothing trumps it...nothing could. But unless we witness to it by the lives we lead, no one is going to get the message. And people will continue to write in their journals: “Nothing of importance happened today.”