

Today is the second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday. At each of the liturgies this weekend, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the sick, a sacrament of God's tender mercy and forgiveness. This sacrament is recommended for all those who are suffering with a serious or chronic illness, those who are facing surgery, and those struggling with addictions, depression, or emotional illness. If you wish to be anointed, please sit in the first row around the church. The anointing will take place after the homily and Fr. Joe will come to you.

Our readings today give us two examples of how the early Christians came to faith. For some it depended on the eyewitness accounts of those who knew Jesus, who witnessed his healings and heard his teaching. Those who were touched by these stories devoted themselves to learning all the eyewitnesses had to say, were nourished at the Eucharistic Table and cared for those in need. They grew strong in their faith together and were witnesses to others.

In the Gospel we have an example of another way to come to faith. Jesus appears to the all the apostles, except one. Those who saw Jesus believed. But Thomas, the one who had not seen, refused to believe based on their word. He wanted tangible proof, seeing with his own eyes and touching with his own hand.

There are many ways to come to faith. Think about the ways you came to faith. Who were the people... what were the events...that introduced you to faith...that strengthened your faith? How does your faith witness to others?

Today, let us remember and be grateful for all those who brought us to faith. May we do the same for others.