

April 23, 2020-Thursday, Second Week of Easter

Didymus

Thomas apparently had a nickname –“Didymus” (the Greek word for “twin”). There is an interesting tradition that the disciples gave Thomas this nickname because, in appearance, he closely resembled Jesus. They would refer to him, not as “Thomas,” but as “The Twin.”

Apocryphal Gospels have also said that Thomas was the twin brother of Matthew or even of Jesus himself.

While Thomas might have indeed been the twin brother of *someone*, the Church has never believed that it was Jesus.

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*Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”*

*(John 20:24-25)*

It doesn't seem fair.

The other disciples had a visual experience of the risen Lord. He appeared to them in the Upper Room. Thomas (perhaps through no fault of his own) missed out. but the rest of the disciples expect Thomas to believe in the Resurrection just as much as they do.

It's not fair...and Thomas tells them that in so many words. He says in effect, “Look. You say you *saw* Jesus. Fine. But *I* didn't see him and I'm not going to take this on hearsay! I want to *see*, just like you did.”

Perhaps the disciples argued with him and told him that what they saw was real—Jesus showed them his wounds.

Thomas gets a little carried away (perhaps he's ticked off). He says that he wants not only to *see* the risen Lord, but also to put his finger into the nail marks.

Sometimes I might feel just as Thomas felt—it's not fair. The appearances of the risen Lord in those first days after the Resurrection were miraculous, one-time special events that aren't available to me.

But the experience of the risen Lord truly present within me, around me, and alongside me, is just as real.

It's an experience that is available to me—sometimes when I least expect it.

Spend some quiet time with the Lord