

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

### The Second Easter Sunday

By: Fr. Daniel Meynen

*“Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst.”*

It is Easter evening. The disciples are at home, and, as they are afraid, they closed all the doors, so that no one could enter the house. Certainly, they did well: they acted with prudence, not exposing themselves without reason to the anger and violence of certain extremist Jews. For they hadn't yet received the Holy Spirit, who would give them strength and constancy in bearing witness to their faith. And this prudence, still too human, it is true, was to serve to demonstrate the strength of the Lord Jesus: despite all the doors being closed, he comes into their midst. Jesus is risen; his body now possesses a dimension that transcends time and space: that of glory!

*“He saith unto them, Peace unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you.”*

The resurrected Jesus is in his eternal rest: he is in peace, nothing can disturb him any more, because he has defeated death and sin. Jesus is now the source of all peace, both in Heaven and on earth, because he is both God and Man: he is the one who can give us the peace of Heaven, because he is God, as well as earthly peace, because he is Man. But it is always Jesus who has the initiative of this peace, it is he who goes to his disciples, when and how he wants to. Jesus could have appeared to his disciples on Easter morning, but it was in the evening that he chose to do so. In the same way, he could have come when Thomas was with the others. But no, he decided to appear to him later, one week after his Resurrection.

*“As my Father hath send me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost : Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.”*

The peace of Heaven and of earth that Jesus came to bring us is a peace that necessarily puts us at peace with God himself: it is the peace that is the fruit of a good conscience, one that is without reproach, one that is not sullied by sin. He who has a bad

conscience is not one who has received the peace of the Lord: he can be at peace neither with himself nor with others, and even less so with God. We cannot separate the Resurrection of the Lord from his Passion: the Sacrifice of the Cross and the Resurrection of the Savior are two absolutely inseparable events. If the Lord gives us his peace, it's through his painful Passion, by which he paid the price due for our sins. That's why, on the evening of Easter, Jesus gives his disciples the power of the remission of sins, so that his peace can spread throughout the universe!

*“And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.”*

Eight days after the Resurrection, Thomas is at home with the other disciples. And Jesus appears suddenly, as before. Obviously, Jesus comes for Thomas' sake; for he said to him: “Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing,” Jesus speaks to Thomas in a firm yet gentle manner. It is like an apparition of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to his disciple Thomas. Thomas had the privilege of putting his hand in the side of the Lord and of touching his Heart full of love and mercy! Once again, the Lord wants to show everyone that he came to call not the just, but sinners. He is the God of all goodness and tenderness!

*“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”*

This beautiful sentence of Saint John's which serves as the conclusion of his Gospel, gives us a general perspective on the texts of the Holy Scriptures: all that the prophets wrote and the evangelists recounted was done to help us to believe in the Son of God, it was done to prepare us to receive with dignity the eternal life that he is in person! May this reading of the Holy Scriptures be profitable to us, and may it be a fruitful preparation for the Eucharistic communion of this celebration!

## READINGS OF THE WEEK

Acts 4:32-35    1 John 5:1-6    John 20:19-31

April 12, 2015

# 靈 修 生 活

## 我 主! 我 的 天 主!

聖經上有關多默的記載，相信是 <<若望福音>> 中最多。然而，由今日福音的記述，及其他章節中的記載，給人感覺到多默是一個多疑且缺乏信德的人。例如：耶穌說明會為信徒預備地方，多默卻回應說：「主！我們不知道祢往那裡去，怎麼會知道那條路呢？」（若十四 5）

福音中記載，當耶穌來的時候，多默並非與門徒們在一起。這一點，的確令人感到奇怪，雖然聖經沒有詳細的交代箇中原因，但是，我們可以想像，在這人心惶惶的時刻，他竟沒有和其他門徒在一起，卻獨個兒離開這個團體。可見他從來沒有在這個團體中建立起信任。這一點在門徒們告知他有關耶穌復活的事時，便顯露無遺。多默更直言：「除非我看見祂手上的釘孔，……我決不信。」（若二十 25）這可謂再一次證實，多默真的沒有將信任、安全感在這團體中建立。不過，洞悉人心的耶穌，因著多默的性格，竟然邀請多默觸摸祂的肋膀，務求能使祂所愛的門徒，也能夠相信祂復活的事實；終於多默也完全相信，並親口向耶穌表達出信仰的高峰「我主！我的天主！」。

天主創造每個人都是獨特的，即是外在的面貌，或是內在的性格，各人都有著其不同而且獨特之處。但全能的天主洞悉我們每一個人的性格，默默中用上不同的方法，來吸引我們到祂的身邊。在剛過去的聖週六晚上，各堂區中皆有不少的兄弟姐妹，籍著領受入門聖事而加入教會。可能我們未必會認識他們每一個人，但是我們也可以肯定，每一個領洗者的皈依歷程，都是獨一無二的，因為天主在每個人身上的計劃，各有不同。其實，我們每個人也可以細想一下，天主是怎樣地吸引我自己去相信祂呢？是否也如洞悉多默的性格一般，用上一種特別的方式來使自己皈依祂呢？不過，無論是用甚麼方法，天主召叫我們加入教會的目的，都只是吸引我們，相信祂對人類有著無限的愛。

此外，今日的福音在甲乙丙年都是同一篇的。教會安排這段福音於復活第二主日來宣讀，相信不單是這段經文切合禮儀的安排---「一週的第一天」（若二十 19）。而且更可讓每一位信友，於慶祝完剛過去的逾越慶典後，以這篇聖經來提醒我們自己的信仰。在上星期的復活慶典中，我們親眼看見眾多的兄弟姐妹加入教會，以心靈來表達他們對信仰的確信；這活生生的見證，確使我們每一個已經成為基督徒的人興奮不已。不過，隨着八日慶期的結束，興奮時刻過後，一個新生活又再開始。同樣，每一位教友當感受到天主的臨在時，不難對天主投以信任；但是，當遇到一些生活挑戰時，可能會對天主產生懷疑或不信任；假如我們批評多默是一個多疑慮，而且是缺乏信德的人，同樣，他也給予我們一個極大的信仰見證。因為他在信仰的低潮時，得到耶穌的邀請，作出了信仰的跳躍，並且可算是眾門徒中，信仰跳得最高的其中一位。因此，就讓我們在生活的挑戰中，去經驗這位對人不斷作出邀請的天主，好讓我們的信仰生活能不斷作出跳躍，從跳躍中效法多默宗徒向天主說出---「我主！我的天主！」。

**祈禱：**無限仁慈的天主，祢在基督逾越的慶節，重新振作祢子民的信德，求祢廣施恩寵，使我們切實領悟，我們由怎樣的聖洗而淨化，由何等聖神而重生、靠誰的寶血而獲得救贖。亞孟。

摘自「公教報」

## 本 週 讀 經

二 零 一 五 年 四 月 十 二 日

宗 4:32-35; 若一 5:1-6; 若 20:19-31