



I Doubt It

Skepticism is a characteristic of a critical mind. Some claims are just too fantastic to trust: no salve can relieve you of all pain; no investment is certain to double your money; no politician can keep all promises; no one comes back from the dead. Who of us can fault Thomas for his initial skepticism?

Thomas has been known through history as “the doubter.” However, he might be considered the patron saint of all of us. Because of his absence when Jesus stood in the midst of the community, Thomas was expected to believe on the word of others. Like Thomas, we are torn between believing because of an experience of Jesus, and believing on the word of others. We all would prefer a direct, profound experience. However, that’s not what we’re offered.

But within the community we can indirectly experience Jesus—his goodness, his unselfish service to others, his desire to bring people together in peace and harmony. The first reading provides a glimpse of such a believing community devoted to “the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Like our patron Thomas, we might be skeptical at first, but it is within a family or community of kindness and generosity that we can have our own experience of the risen Jesus.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ *Where in your family do you experience devotion to others, forgiveness, and courage? Where do you bring these attitudes?*
- ★ *How might you strengthen the bonds of your community so that others can recognize the presence of the risen Jesus?*



*Jesus said to [Thomas],
“Have you come to believe
because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have
not seen and have believed.”*

JOHN 20:29