

July 3, 2008
Thursday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time
Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Ephesians 2:19-22

Psalms 117:1bc, 2

John 20:24-29

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." □

My 8 year-old granddaughter overheard a conversation in which it was stated that one of her cousins was excelling in math, 2 grades above his older brother. My granddaughter commented that she would be embarrassed to have a younger sibling excel at a level beyond her in any subject. I thought about that and wondered if Thomas was embarrassed when Jesus returned and showed him the wounds so he could believe. Thomas reminds me of a school age child who needs tutoring in order to catch up. And yet, Jesus is patient. He gives Thomas exactly what he needs. I want to remember that Jesus is always patient with me, even when I seem to take an inordinate amount of time to catch up: to realize the message, to understand the challenge, to hear the invitation to change or to recognize my weaknesses. While it is nice to be the one who excels and it is often embarrassing to need the extra time and extra help, I am not only comforted, but blessed to know that Jesus is patiently waiting for me, that he will give me exactly what I need if I but ask. I do not always have to get it right on the first try.

God shows us His love for mankind not only when we do good, but also when we offend and displease Him. How patiently he endures our transgressions; and when He chastises, how mercifully He chastises!

~Seraphim of Sarov

Where am I like Thomas today?
What do I doubt that Jesus is working to show me?