

APRIL 12, 2015



# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER OR DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



ACTS 4:32–35

PSALM 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24

1 JOHN 5:1–6

JOHN 20:19–31

## REFLECTION

The description of the young Church as vibrant and confident in the First Reading is almost the opposite of the opening scene in today's Gospel where the disciples are locked away in fear. They are all afraid until they see Jesus and are given the gift of his peace. Poor Thomas missed the big meeting and wouldn't take other people's word for it. Thomas had a hard time believing that they saw Jesus. Maybe he had gotten tired of hoping. Maybe his heart was just too broken by losing Jesus. We can all be like that—each of us has a "Thomas part" to our personality. When we're hurt or feeling left out or when other people's faith is stronger than ours, it can be hard to see God. It can be hard to believe in mercy. It can be hard to have hope. This Sunday's readings show us how the presence of Jesus and the strength drawn from community helped move those early Christians—and helps move us—from fear to joy.



### **THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH (1994)**

A young girl has hope  
when no one else  
believes.

## ACTION

Jesus may not be appearing in your room but he does show up in your life. Take some time to name the people and experiences that make you feel closest to God. Now engage in some creativity and turn these observations into a work of art—a picture, a poem, a song, or written reflection that will remind you of Jesus's presence in your life!

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Put yourself in Thomas's shoes. Do you think you would have believed your friends or would you need proof?
- If someone asked you how you know Jesus is risen what would you say?