

Fr. O'Connor's Homily April 11, 2021

How many here today are doubting Thomas'? How many of you believe wholeheartedly? Well you're here today. You're seeking God. You're searching.

What gives me great comfort is that God is always searching for us, pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts. Faith does not so much depend on our understanding but rather on our acceptance of the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever asked yourself, when difficulties arise, where is God in all of this? So, where is God in this Covid crises? Where is God in all the losses of the past year? I mean where is God in all the suffering, the sickness, the death, the separation of families? But then ask yourself, where does all the generosity, the greatness of heart come from? I'm talking about the front line workers; nurses and doctors, the teachers of our children who have faced serious challenges – those who are bringing food to the hungry – so many who are giving of themselves to others in hidden ways.

Aren't there always problems, tragedies beyond our understanding? But also aren't there almost always people of great heart?

I find it amazing, wonderful that faith has always been part of our human community even in pre-historic times. Faith has always been a constant because God has never been stingy with the Holy Spirit. God constantly pours out the Holy Spirit on all human flesh – every person. We have never been alone.

So now let's get back to you. Cardinal, Saint John Newman who wrote the hymn Lead Kindly Light tells us that a thousand difficulties do not constitute a doubt.

The Holy Spirit is at every moment being poured into your heart. My intellect or yours is not equal to faith but our hearts are made to receive faith. God has gifted you with gift of opening your heart to faith. He stands at the door of your heart and asks, begs to enter.

And so we kneel in front of Jesus with Thomas and proclaim "My Lord and my God". Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believe!