

WITNESSED

As preached on Sunday, July 26th

Read: John 20:11-29

1. At the beginning of this week's text we find that Mary has remained at the tomb while Peter and John "went back to where they were staying." Why do you suppose Peter and John left? Why do you think Mary stayed?
2. When Jesus first appears to Mary, she doesn't recognize him. Why do you think that is? How does she end up realizing it is Jesus? Why is that significant?
3. In v.17 Jesus tells Mary, "Do not hold on to me." Why does he say this? Why does he say this to Mary but then invite Thomas to touch him?
4. That same evening Jesus makes an appearance to the disciples. How do they respond?
5. Verse 22 indicates that Jesus gives the disciples the Holy Spirit on this occasion. How does this fit with the Pentecost account provided in Acts 2? Since Thomas wasn't present, did he miss out on his chance to receive the gift of the Spirit?
6. Take a moment to re-read v.23. What do you think Jesus means? Do you think the Catholic Church has interpreted this verse correctly? Why, or why not?
7. Have we been too hard on Thomas? What is significant about Thomas' response after encountering his risen Savior?
8. Though we are not able to see our risen Savior with our eyes, in what ways does he continue to "appear" to us in our everyday lives?