



I Want Proof

Who doesn't? It's not simply that we are children of the scientific age in which proof is essential. Concrete evidence gives us a sense of security; it helps us understand how things work. Even in ordinary human relationships, we want proof. A tune from *My Fair Lady* demands: "Don't talk of love...show me." It's very difficult to live without a certain degree of surety. Consequently, we should not be surprised at Thomas' insistence: "I want proof."

Thomas is often described as lacking faith. This isn't the full story. The reason the other disciples believed was because they had an experience of the risen Lord. Before that experience they were hiding behind locked doors. Thomas was absent; we are not told why. Whatever the reason, he also wanted an experience of the risen Lord. He was not content to base his believing on their word alone. In a sense, more was being asked of Thomas than the others.

Thomas is the patron of all of us whose faith in the risen Lord is based on the word of others rather than on our own unique revelatory experience. Who of us wouldn't want some mystical experience? We are called to believe without seeing. Yet, this isn't strictly true—we *can* see evidence of the resurrection. The best proof is evident in the lives of millions of people who commit themselves to God and who strive to live with integrity.

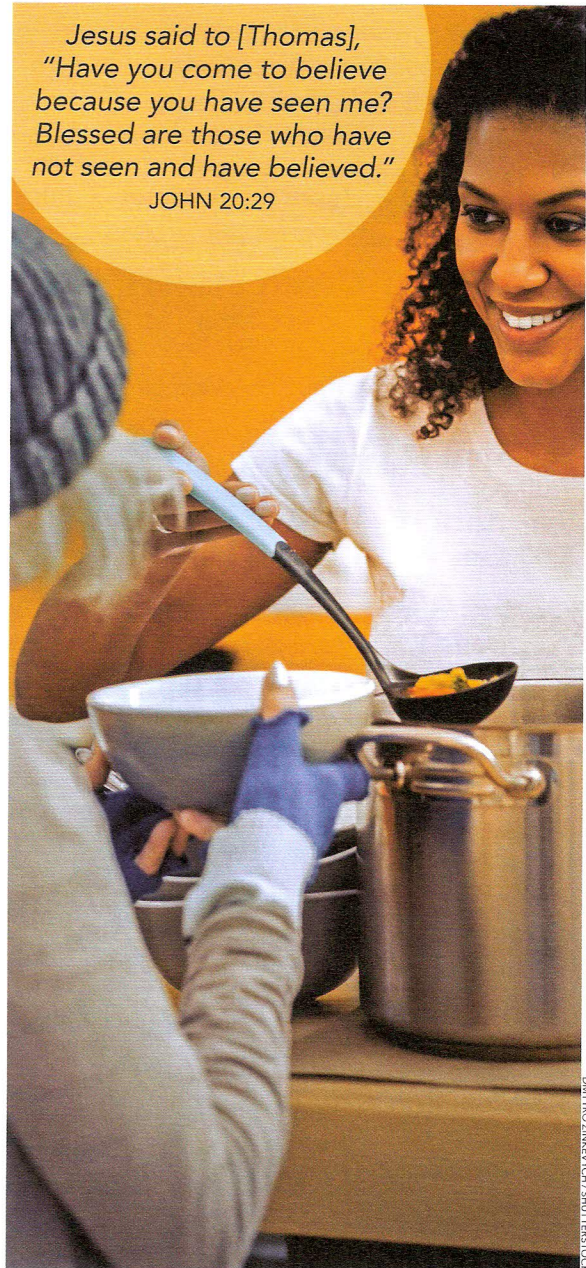
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection

- * *Who are the people who taught you your faith and who live it themselves? Thank God for them.*
- * *Who looks to you as an example of one who believes that Christ is alive today?*

*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



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