

The Second Sunday of Easter – April 23 ,2017

Theme: SCARS

Introduction

A striking feature about today's Gospel is this: the Risen Christ retained the scars of his Passion on his body. It's quite extraordinary. Jesus had a transformed, exalted, glorious, risen body that could pass through doors yet He kept the scars. Christ could have miraculously erased those scars after his Resurrection but chose not to. They were his personal signature.

We can often recognize someone who has changed dramatically over the years by certain marks and scars. It was only when the Apostles saw His hands and side they realized that this was the Jesus of Nazareth they knew. That is why Thomas wanted to see his scars.

Whenever we see a scar on our knee, finger or chest we remember how it got there. Maybe we have some scars from our own negligence or that of others. Some came

intentionally through surgery and others through violence. Some of those scars are on the outside and others are on the inside, but each one has a story .The Risen Lord kept his scars as the evidence of His love.

They also help us keep His Passion and Death joined with His Resurrection. It can be spiritually distorting to separate them. If we emphasize the sufferings of Jesus, it is important to remember that those sufferings led to His Resurrection. If we reflect on the Resurrection of Jesus, we need to remember that the avenue to new life that was through a crucifixion and death .The Passion,Death and Resurrection are all linked what the theologians call the “ Pascal Mystery”.

His scars are also a promise. The Risen Christ showed them His scars and still has them to show us that through Him we can have healing and spiritual victory!

Jesus knows the stories behind all our wounds on the outside and inside as well. As Christians we do not have immunity to wounds .People do slander us as they do others , people do harm us ; oppose us as they do others , people deceive us as they do everyone else .The scars of Jesus should give us confidence that real victory comes from doing God's will. The scars of the Risen Christ give us strength from knowing we are on the side of the Risen Christ. Change in the Apostles happened both inside the room and inside them.

He gave them a strength and peace which they could not generate on their own. When we open whatever wounds we have to the healing power of Christ's truth and grace, they can become places of strength for us . Amen.

(Your Comments/Suggestions are always welcome FrJohn@strosesv.com)