

FROM HOMILIES OF POPE FRANCIS ON JESUS OFFERING US HIS WOUNDS

Second Sunday of Easter – 16 April 2023

WELCOME SISTER RITA

This weekend we welcome Sister Rita at all Masses.
She is currently back from South Sudan for a few weeks.

I offer two quotes from Pope Francis as he preached about today's Gospel Passage in 2020 and in 2022.

I find his words inspirational as we reflect on the words of Jesus and on our own wounds.

SECOND SUNDAY EASTER 2020

'We too can ask ourselves: "Have I given my failings to the Lord?

Have I let him see me fall so that he can raise me up?"

Or is there something I still keep inside me?

A sin, a regret from the past, a wound that I have inside, a grudge against someone, an idea about a particular person...

The Lord waits for us to offer him our failings so that he can help us experience his mercy.

Let us go back to the disciples. They had abandoned the Lord at his Passion and felt guilty.

But meeting them, Jesus did not give a long sermon.

To them, who were wounded within, he shows his own wounds.

Thomas can now touch them and know of Jesus' love

and how much Jesus had suffered for him, even though he had abandoned him.

In those wounds, he touches with his hands God's tender closeness.

Thomas arrived late, but once he received mercy, he overtook the other disciples:

he believed not only in the resurrection, but in the boundless love of God.

And he makes the most simple and beautiful profession of faith: "My Lord and my God!" (v. 28).

Here is the resurrection of the disciple:

it is accomplished when his frail and wounded humanity enters into that of Jesus.

There, every doubt is resolved; there, God becomes my God; t

here, we begin to accept ourselves and to love life as it is.'

(from the homily of Pope Francis on the Second Sunday of Easter, 19 April 2020)

SECOND SUNDAY EASTER 2022

'Peace be with you! The Lord says these words a third time when, eight days later, he appears to the disciples and strengthens the flagging faith of Thomas.

Thomas wants to see and touch. The Lord is not offended by Thomas's disbelief,

but comes to his aid: "Put your finger here and see my hands" (v. 27).

These are not words of defiance but of mercy. Jesus understands Thomas's difficulty.

He does not treat Thomas with harshness, and the apostle is deeply moved by this kindness.

From a disbeliever, he becomes a believer, and makes the simplest and finest confession of faith:

"My Lord and my God!" (v. 28). These are beautiful words.

We can make them our own and repeat them throughout the day, especially when, like Thomas, we experience doubts and difficulties.

For the story of Thomas is in fact the story of every believer.

There are times of difficulty when life seems to belie faith, moments of crisis when we need to touch and see.

Like Thomas, it is precisely in those moments that we rediscover the heart of Christ, the Lord's mercy.

In those situations, Jesus does not approach us in triumph and with overwhelming proofs. He does not perform earth-shattering miracles, but instead offers us heartwarming signs of his mercy.

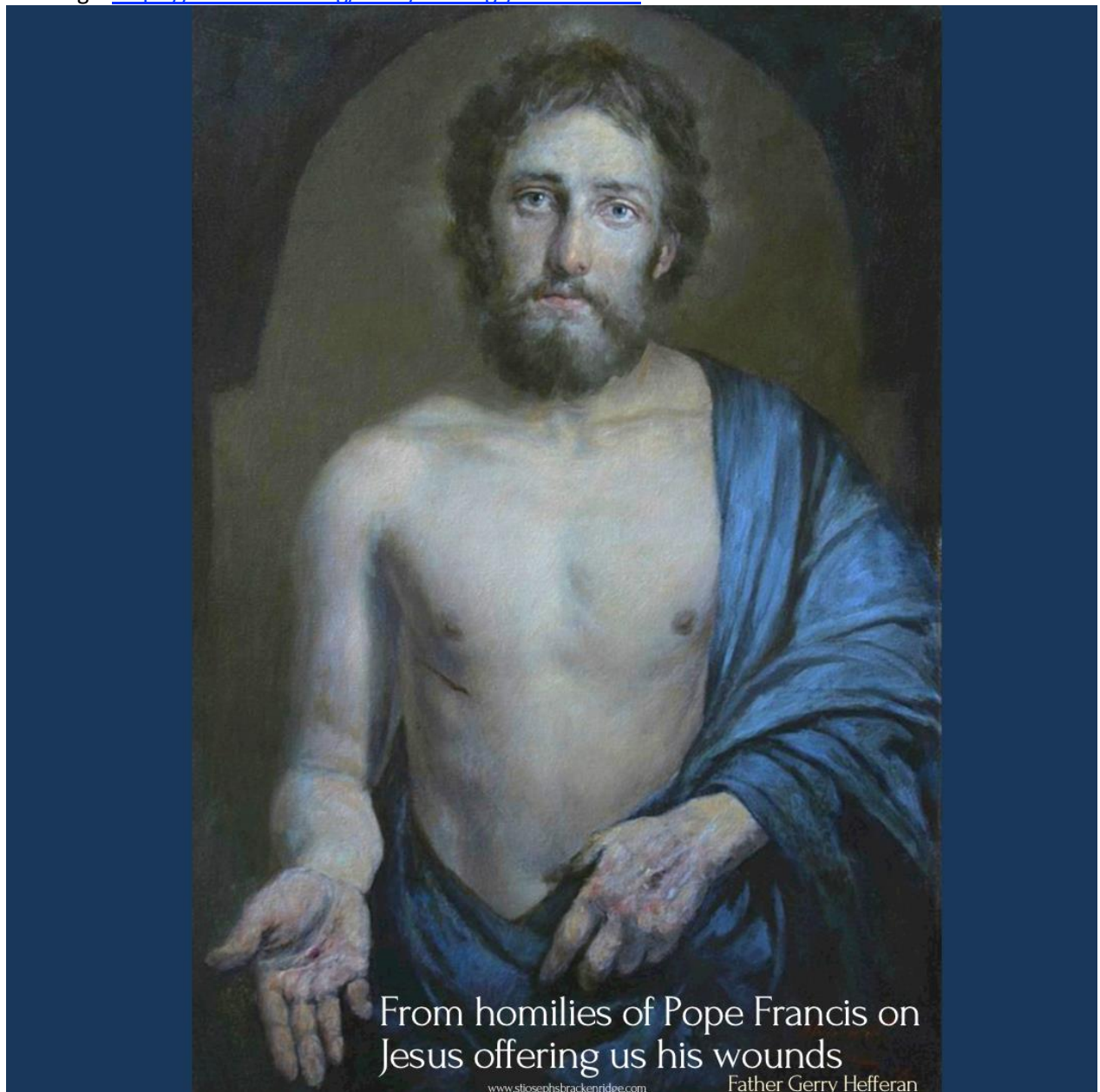
He comforts us in the same way he did in today's Gospel: he offers us his wounds.'

(from the homily of Pope Francis on the Second Sunday of Easter, 2022)

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/041623.cfm>



From homilies of Pope Francis on
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