

**April 23, 2017**

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles**

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 1: 3-9**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 24: 13-35**

**Homilist: Father Jeff Poirot**

Where or with whom did your faith and belief in Jesus first began? In today's first and second reading there is mention made of those who believe who have not seen Jesus, but still believe in him through others. And in the Gospel we see Thomas as well as the other disciples coming to believe because they see the physical resurrected Jesus in front of them. So where or with whom did your faith in Jesus first begin?

For so many of us, our faith and belief in Jesus and in God first began through the example, teachings and even preaching of others. It was their faith and example that first inspired us to believe and to embrace a faith which doesn't always promise a life which is easy to us, but a life that is focused on love, mercy, forgiveness and service of others. The end of today's Gospel is speaking about you and me. Our faith began through the example of someone else, and we may or may not be able to recall all of the people who have had an influence on our faith and belief, but we can remember some of them.

In my own life the people I remember most as having an influence on my own faith were my grandparents. From my Grandfather who taught me the power of wrote prayer, in particular the rosary, when he was on his

death bed and although he could not speak to us in any phrases or sentences that made sense because of multiple strokes, if you put a rosary in his hand he prayed every Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be perfectly. To my Grandma who patiently listened to me as I went on and on about all of the things I learned in seminary and needed to teach her so that she knew more about her faith and she showed me that faith isn't about how much you learn or can rattle off but it is about loving, forgiving, accepting and praying for those around you. And finally my Grandmother who taught me that even in the midst of struggles and times when things are not going well that prayer must be a part of both the good and bad times by making sure that she was always at the Wednesday night novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. No doubt you have had similar influences in your life, but today's readings are not just about remembering those who have helped us to believe and to know our own blessedness as it says in the Gospel, because we are those who have not seen and have believed. It is about how we are going to be the ones that help others to believe and have faith.

As you go forth from here, much like Jesus sends out his disciples in today's Gospel, how are you going to be an example of faith, mercy, forgiveness, love, acceptance and of

all that Jesus showed to those around him and has been passed down to us so that others may continue to believe? Let us strive to be an example to others of faith so that others may come to believe in Jesus through Us, like we have come to believe through others  
us, like we have come to believe through others.