

*St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN*  
*The First Fifteen*

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling “The First Fifteen.” We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week’s weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

**Sunday, April 8, 2018**

**John 20: 19-31**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in his side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them.. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” The he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and believed.”

Now Jesus did many signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you should come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. Have you ever needed concrete proof of something? How did you react when your doubt was satisfied? Were you glad? Mad at yourself for doubting?
2. Of all the things Jesus must have said to the apostles why did St. John record “Peace be with you” three times?
- 3 . How does Jesus deal with Thomas’ doubt? What two sacraments did Jesus bestow on the apostles at this time? Why did he choose this time to give them these two sacraments?

End with the “**Glory Be**” “**Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**”