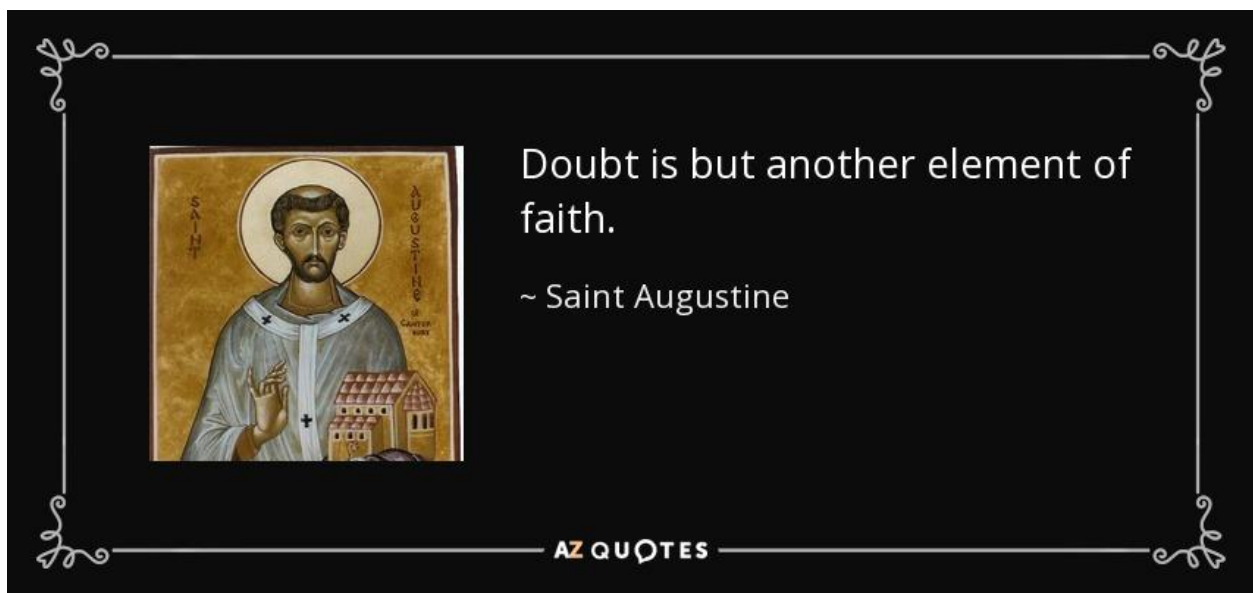


FROM FATHER JOHN – *“The favors of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, “My kindness is established forever”; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. The heavens proclaim your wonders, O LORD, and your faithfulness, in the assembly of the holy ones. For who in the skies can rank with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the sons of God? Blessed the people who know the joyful shout; in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they walk. At your name they rejoice all the day, and through your justice they are exalted.” ~ Psalm 89*

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord, Alleluia!



My prayer today, and my hope, is that you and your loved ones remain in good health, both spiritually and bodily, and that you will find peace in the Grace of the Holy Spirit. Please keep our parish and all of our people in your prayers!

Earlier this year, we decided to postpone Fr. Peter’s memorial mass. I discussed the possibility of postponing the mass with numerous members of our parish who serve in various leadership positions, with our parish staff and with Fr. Peter’s family concerning the memorial mass for Fr. Peter. The consensus among all of us is that we should postpone his memorial mass until we can celebrate in the manner most appropriate to his life as a priest and his service to the Church.

Fr. Peter was loved by many. It's important that when we celebrate Fr. Peter's memorial mass that the celebration truly reflects his many years of service to the Church and to the People of God as an ordained priest. It's also important that we can all come together to celebrate the love that God shared with all of us through Fr. Peter and his priestly ministry.

A new date has not yet been scheduled. When I scheduled our original date back in August, I was completely sure that all the restrictions would be lifted way before April 25th. I was wrong and, because I was so wrong, I think it's best to wait to schedule a new date until we have a better idea when we can properly celebrate his memorial mass. I will announce the new date once it is scheduled with Bishop Hicks.

Please let people who don't get this email that Fr. Peter's memorial mass has been postponed due to the pandemic related restrictions.

Here is the direct link to the readings for the Third Sunday of Easter.

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/041821.cfm>

There's an old Polish proverb that says "To believe with certainty, we must begin with doubting." There's also an old Greek proverb that says, "The wise are prone to doubt."

"To believe with certainty, we must begin with doubting" and "The wise are prone to doubt."

My family and I went on a vacation to Mexico the first Christmas after I graduated from college. It was a great vacation. One afternoon, my brother Tim and I were sitting on the beach, just totally relaxed, when these three local men came up to us and offered to take us parasailing. Now, Parasailing is something I had always wanted to do so I immediately said yes. Tim, on the other hand immediately said no. He'd spent four years in Army Special Forces and said he'd already jumped out of enough planes. About seven or eight people on the beach decided to go on this parasailing trip. They took us about a half mile out to a platform raft where each of us would take off from and land on.

I was the first one to go up on the parasail. It was beautiful, the view was absolutely spectacular. I was having the time of my life. I began to wonder why my brother didn't want to go parasailing, when all of a sudden, I looked down and saw the three men in the boat drinking beer. I began to doubt.

And, then I noticed how small the platform raft looked from a thousand feet in the air. I no longer doubted, now I began to get nervous, to get scared.

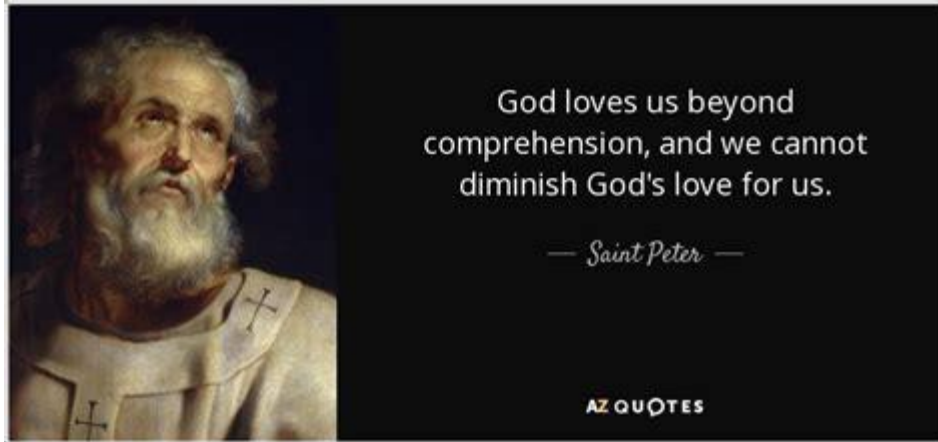
They began to bring me in for the descent to the raft. It wasn't a straight descent; it weaved back and forth, back and forth. Now, I was really, really nervous and really, really scared. I broke out in a big sweat.

I did not doubt, I knew for sure that this was it, I was going to die. But, to my utter amazement I landed safely, without a scratch.

Remember the proverbs, "To believe with certainty, we must begin with doubting" and "The wise are prone to doubt."

The disciples doubted the promise of our Lord Jesus to rise from the dead. Their doubt became fear. They were now frightened. They were running away from what they feared would happen in Jerusalem. That's why two of them headed to Emmaus, that's why they hid in the upper room behind a locked door, that's why they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost in today's gospel passage.

They doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead and, because of their doubt, they were terrified. This doubt came after they had abandoned Jesus at the foot of the cross. This doubt came after Peter had denied Christ three times. This doubt came after Mary encountered the risen Jesus outside his tomb. This doubt took hold of them until they encountered the risen Lord themselves.



The amazing thing is that Jesus never asked them, “where were you?” or “why did you abandon me?” or “why did you deny me?” or “why is it that you doubted me?” or “where were you when I needed you most?” I know I would have asked all those questions and more.

Instead, Jesus says things to them like, “Peace be with you”. He gently asks them why they were troubled or if they had anything to eat. He gently asks them “What are you discussing as you walk along?” He breaks open the scriptures for them and explains everything that pertains to Him.

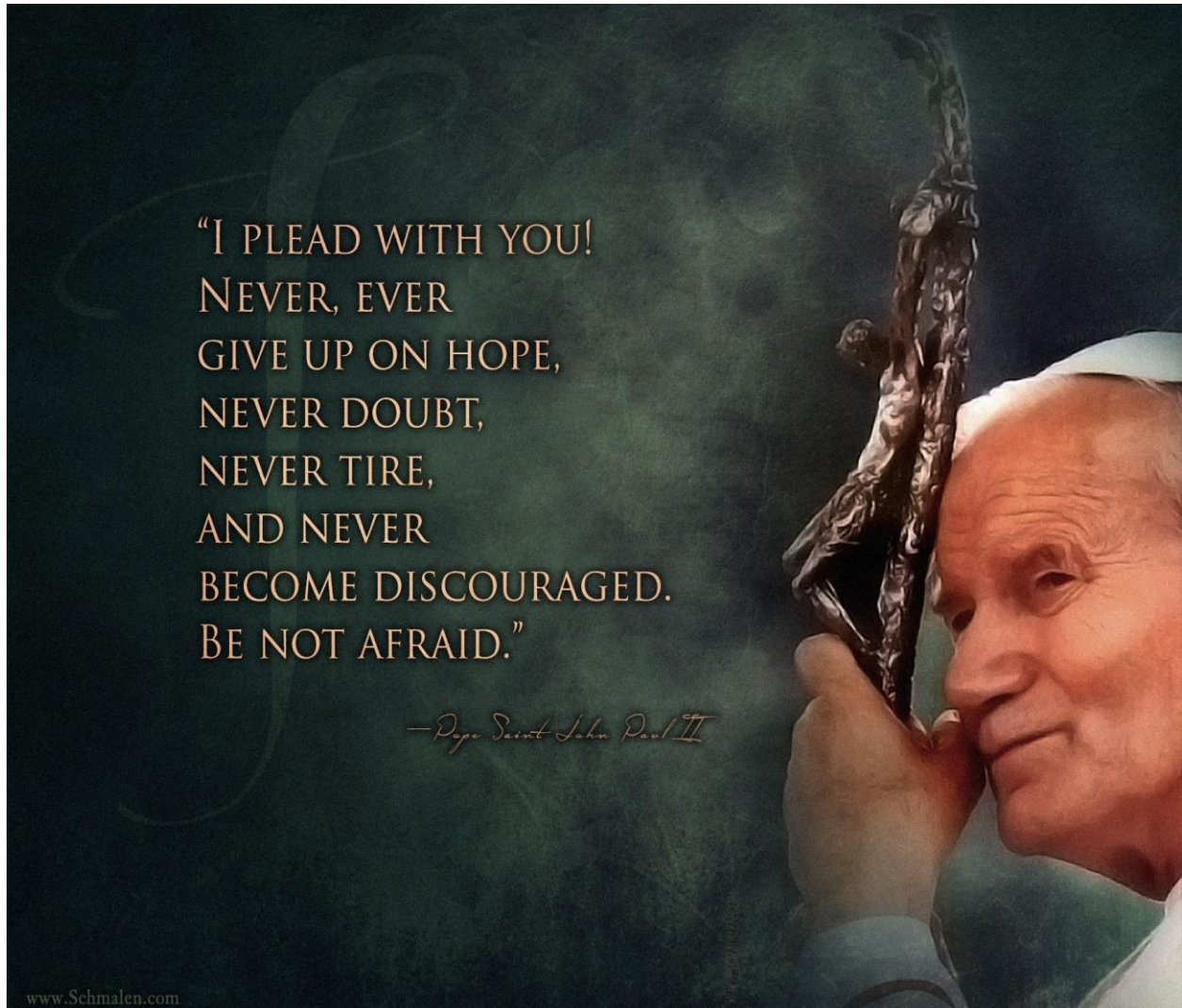
In the offer of peace, in the breaking of the bread, in the eating of the fish, in the breaking open the Word, in His gentleness and kindness to them, our Lord Jesus offers the disciples a second chance. A second chance at life, a second chance to love as Christ loved, a second chance to have the peace that only comes from Christ Jesus.

Our Lord Jesus offers us the very same thing, a second chance at life; a second chance to live life to its fullest, to love God, friends, family, strangers as Christ Jesus has loved us and a second chance to have the peace that only our Lord Jesus Christ can give. Our Lord offers this to us each and every day, every time we come to mass, every time we pray, every time we reach out to a stranger, every time we break open the bible and read His Word, every time we offer someone our love, Christ Jesus offers us a second chance.

We see in the resurrection of the Lord the awesome power of God, the awesome love of God. The power and love of God that is so awesome that it even conquers sin and death and darkness and brings new life to the world. The power and love

of God that is so awesome that it gives you and me a second chance each and every day.

May God bless you and all those who love the Lord.



“I PLEAD WITH YOU!
NEVER, EVER
GIVE UP ON HOPE,
NEVER DOUBT,
NEVER TIRE,
AND NEVER
BECOME DISCOURAGED.
BE NOT AFRAID.”

—Pope Saint John Paul II