



**July 7, 2021**

I'm hoping that you all had a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Did you celebrate it in a special way with your family? We often think of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the

United States. It fell on a Sunday this year, which means it was observed on Monday, July 5th—giving many Americans a three-day weekend! This day is incredibly significant in American history, as it marks the day the United States officially became its own nation, and the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare its independence from England in 1776. Many Americans celebrate this birthday with festivals, parades, and fireworks.

That same weekend was the feast of St. Thomas, one of Jesus' twelve apostles. Sometimes, he is called the 'doubting Thomas' because after Jesus' resurrection, Jesus came to visit the disciples, but Thomas was not with them at that time. When the other apostles tell Thomas that they **had seen the Lord**, Thomas says 'unless I see the marks of the nails & put my hand into his side, **I will not believe.**' Have you ever doubted some of the things that you had been told, doubted that Jesus really had died and had risen? When Thomas really sees the risen Lord, he says 'My Lord and my God!'. Jesus gives Thomas what he seemed to need. That is what I love about this story (John 20:24-29), Jesus give us what we really need.

**May God bless you, and give you what you need.**

**Sister Marilyn Dunn, PBVM** ([srmarilyn.dunn@presentation.edu](mailto:srmarilyn.dunn@presentation.edu))

Presentation College, Telephone: (605-380-7691)

Assistant in Student Affairs & Mission

