



Serving Christ and the community since 1731.

rhinebeckreformed.org

| 845.876.3727

| 6368 Mill Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572

| rhinebeckreformed@frontiernet.net

PASTORAL LETTER – APRIL 19, 2020

Dear friend,

In our devotional video (see and click below), we are going to discuss the remarkable post-Resurrection story known as *Doubting Thomas*. **It is a story that explores how doubt and faith are not isolated attitudes.**

To doubt is to come to grips with our own limitations as human beings. To doubt is to have the awareness that we don't know all that there is to be known and that we are not correct all the time. It is helpful to view doubt as a journey that invites us to ask questions and to then discern the answers to our questions in view of what our faith teaches.

Aside from our lesson about *Doubting Thomas*, the other person we probably owe the most to in our Western Christian tradition for helping us see faith and doubt as mutually dependent is Augustine.

In his book titled *Confessions*, Augustine arranges faith and doubt on a spectrum, and argues that they correspond to each other. He views faith and doubt as two wings of the same dove, or as necessary for helping us to become calculated risk takers.

Augustine expressed his attraction to doubt and his love for certainty when he said, **“believe that you may understand.”**

I sincerely hope that you enjoy our Sunday devotional video, since it demonstrates how the Resurrected Christ can penetrate walls made of stone and psychological

barriers in order to help us deal with our personal doubts in the same manner that he did with *Doubting Thomas*. https://youtu.be/z_qStDqrKGk

Also, I would like to encourage you to view Dr. Bruce Chilton's lecture on the Resurrection as part of our commitment to studying scriptures and the theme of the Resurrection in a thoughtful manner. That video will appear on our website's learning section soon. Be on the lookout!

<https://www.rhinebeckreformed.org/learning>

He is Risen!

Your brother-in-Christ, your friend and your pastor,
Luis