In 1973, Pat Madsen was performing a motorcycle stunt for a movie starring William Shatner called “X Factor.” The motorcycle stunt went terribly bad, crippling Pat from the waist down. How did Pat respond? Pat decided that he was going to be a force for good and became an advocate for people who suffer from spinal cord injury. Pat likes to visit these patients to help them understand that the world doesn’t have to end because of their injury. It’s one thing to have able bodied doctors and therapists tell you that life will go on, and it’s another thing to have someone like Pat roll up to your bed to tell you that life is a treasure worth fighting for. Wounds have the power to heal.

The Risen Lord has wounds, glorified wounds. Wounds that no longer hurt, but have become a source of strength, able to heal the world! Wounds hurt, right? **Straw poll:** who here wants to be wounded, raise your hands? No one wants to be wounded. However, when we allow the Risen Lord into our lives, wounds no longer have to be festering, hurting cancers of the soul. The Risen Lord can transform our wounds into glorified, holy wounds that can become a source of strength and healing to others if we only unite our suffering to Christ’s suffering and unite His Resurrection to our own Easter hope. Then wounds no longer would have to suck us dry. Through a relationship with Jesus, we can gain strength from accidents that befall us, or injustices committed against us, as much as we can learn from our own mistakes. Our transformed wounds can then become a source of strength, influencing us to do little things to help Jesus heal a wounded world.

What are your wounds? Can you trust your wounds to Jesus? Jesus showed His wounds to Thomas. We can relate to St. Thomas. At times, we have our doubts. Thomas is our patron saint. Notice that Jesus waited a week before appearing to Thomas. God waits for the perfect moment. He made the Hebrews wait 40 years wandering in the desert. St. Paul prayed that what he called the “thorn in his side” would be removed, and Jesus said, “No, my strength is manifested through your weakness.” Christianity involves a daily cross to carry. God want us to live with our wound for a while and waits until He knows our soul is ready for liberation. For Thomas, it took a week. Jesus invited Thomas to touch His wounds. Thomas was a wounded, doubting soul. What was Jesus’ remedy for Thomas’ infirm soul? Jesus gave Thomas His wounds, His glorified wounds. Thomas, in awe, proclaims, “My Lord and my God.”

St. Faustina had a vision of the Risen Lord. From the side of Christ, water and blood shine out like rays of the sun. The water represents Baptism and the blood represents Eucharist. In St. Faustina’s diary, Jesus told her “tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Font of Mercy” (Diary 699). Under the image is St. Faustina’s prayer that we should all pray when we have doubts or hurts. Jesus, I trust in you. I don’t know where my life is going. Jesus, I trust in you. I’m racked with sinfulness. Jesus, I trust in you. I’m wounded by the sins of others. Jesus, I trust in you. My life seems like it’s crumbling all around me. Jesus, I trust in you. We need to be cleansed by the healing touch of God’s love and forgiveness. We need to come to the altar with our aches and hurts and let Christ’s Body and Blood cleanse our body and blood. Let Jesus’ wounds transform our wounds and let us pray over and over again, Jesus, I trust in you.