

Ten years ago today Francisco and Jacqueline went to the courthouse in Wyandotte County and got married. They had known each other for two months. They described their former selves to me with two words: young and impulsive. Today they are mature and reflective. During those ten years they have welcomed five children into their home and stayed active with their church. They come now to make their consent before God and this community of their family and friends.

The gospel for this Mass tells of another person who was young and impulsive: the apostle Thomas. You know his story well. On the day of the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the apostles to wish them peace and give them the Holy Spirit. Thomas was missing; we don't know why. Maybe he was fishing so everyone would have something to eat. Maybe he went out with his twin. Maybe he was just running late. He wasn't there when the risen Jesus appeared, and his friends told him what he missed.

You know that feeling when you missed something that impressed other people. They feel superior because they can tell you all about it, and you feel inferior because you missed it. It's worse if you missed it because it was your own fault.

Thomas tried to gain the upper hand. He told the other apostles he didn't believe them. He accused all ten of them of lying. He insisted he'd have to see Jesus in order to believe. Thomas sounds young and impulsive.

A week later, Jesus reappeared, and this time Thomas was with the group. Jesus patiently invited Thomas to touch him and believe.

Francisco and Jacqueline are a little like Thomas. The risen Jesus has been all around them: speaking to their hearts, confirming their faith, making them members of his family of believers. Today they come to this cathedral in order to touch Jesus. They reaffirm their faith in him. They rejoice to be in his presence.

We have all had experiences that draw us closer to God. We realize we have missed out on his loving presence, but now he reveals himself to us in a new way.

Thomas became one of the greatest of the apostles. Tradition has it that he traveled the farthest, all the way to India, in order to proclaim the good news. The man who was absent when the risen Jesus first appeared carried Christ with him to the ends of the earth.

Francisco and Jacqueline, Christ has called you from nearby Kansas and faraway Campeche. He reveals himself to you. He also will send you forth like apostles. The commitment you make to each other today is also a commitment you make to Christ. As you share your love for each another, you tell the world that you have touched Christ. When we see you, we will see Christ too.