

The Road to Emmaus: The Third Sunday of Easter: April 26, 2020

Luke 24: 13-35

Our gospel today presents us with the picture of Jesus' frightened and frustrated disciples. This wasn't the first time they were frightened or frustrated by our Lord nor was it the last time. The kingdom he came to offer would be much greater than they were capable of imagining. The way into that kingdom would be the cross. **Through good times and bad, he never abandoned them even when they deserted him.** In our journey through life sometimes things can get pretty discouraging. The times we are in today are very frustrating!

Things don't always happen the way we think they should and we feel anger, discouragement and sadness. Through good times and bad, our Lord is with us, **although we do not always recognize him.** He has won victory for us over all those forces that seek to pull us down. He has declared victory even over our ultimate enemy — sin and death. It is that victory that we celebrate especially during this Easter season. All through the year Jesus is with us, teaching us with his word in the Scriptures and nourishing us with the bread of his own flesh and blood as he does today.

These two frightened disciples in today's gospel, like all of us, they had put all their hopes in Jesus and when Jesus was put to death, they thought it was all torn away from them. They had heard that Jesus had risen, but they did not believe it. Jesus' conversation with them and the breaking of the bread made them realize Jesus really was alive; their hopes returned.

At this time, I want to thank you in *anticipation* for overcoming the challenges and fears and discouragements we are all facing today and continue to face throughout our lives. I want to encourage you and thank you for your patience, your many sacrifices, your sensitivity to one another, your care and concern, your enduring love especially during this lockdown. May you trust in our Lord's presence with you and always experience hope and joy and a love that never fails. As Jesus walked with those disciples, He is walking with us. He is trying to help us understand, when we listen to the scriptures, and feeding us not just bread for the body but food for our mind and heart. All we have to do is listen. If we catch on to what he is saying, we may want to tell everyone all about what we experienced on our journey. This Journey to "Emmaus" (unknown location) that these two disciples were taking is a direction of despair...."their eyes were opened and they recognized him,.....so they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem....."we are called to open our eyes and see him in those we around us! All through life's day, you walk with us, Lord. But often we don't recognize you, for we are blinded by work and worry, doubt, confusion and fear, and so you remain a stranger to us. Before the day's end we will ask many questions, experience many sorrows and disappointments. And then, suddenly, whether we are young, middle-aged, or old, we will find that night is approaching. In that moment we pray, that, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, our eyes will be opened, and that we will recognize you. And you will not vanish from our sight, but stay with us to guide us to the Father's house. Amen.