

3rd Sunday of Easter 2017

This story is significant for us because these 2 disciples were not part of the original 12 ...the "inner circle."

But it doesn't matter. What matters was that Jesus came to them because they needed him.

They were sad, broken-hearted. They had lost hope.

They were walking away from the painful death on the cross they had witnessed.

This Story teaches us that:

Jesus cares for us even if we are not in the "inner circle";

Jesus comes to us when we need him;

He desires to heal our broken hearts as we walk along the path of our life.

Jesus could have appeared to these two in all his might and splendor.

"Look at me.... I have been raised."

No, he walked with them, as one of them, as a companion,
listening to their story, giving them hope.

The story teaches us that

our God comes to us, seeking us.

We don't have a God who waits for us to come crawling to him.

The central message of the Bible is God's quest for us.

Even when we are walking on the wrong path, Jesus comes and walks with us.

Even when we are confused, or sad, or lost, he comes.

Their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

In all the resurrection appearances, no one recognizes him at first.

These disciples thought he was just someone who is joining their walk home.

They knew all the facts about Jesus;

He was a prophet...he was handed over...he was crucified,...

He was to be our messiah... now we hear he has been raised!

But they did not know him and why he had to suffer.
The path to God is the path of love... and love means sacrifice.

When the 2 disciples arrived home, Jesus was going on.
He waited for them to invite him to come in.
They said. "Stay with us."
He waits for us to invite him in too. He does not force himself.
And when we do, He opens our eyes, and we recognize him.

We wonder where the town of Emmaus was.
Historians have not identified the place and that may be good.
Because whenever you invite Jesus in, that is your Emmaus.
It's not a place. It's an encounter.

So the story teaches us that
Jesus seeks us.
We don't always recognize his presence.
He comes to us when we need him.

At the table, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them.
AND THEIR EYES WERE OPENED. And their hearts were warmed.
They could not stay there. They had to share their experience.
Dark as it was, late as it was, dangerous as the road would be,
they left and went back to Jerusalem.
"We saw him, He walked with us. He broke bread with us."

That is the liturgy....that is the Eucharist....that is the Mass.
He explains the scriptures to us in the Liturgy of the Word
And he blessed and breaks the bread of his Body in the Eucharist

We come to the table today, that our eyes will be opened,
and we too will recognize him in the breaking of the bread.