

The radio personality, Paul Harvey, used to say "And now here is the REST OF THE STORY."

Today's Gospel gives us 'THE REST OF THE STORY' what happened after the Resurrection.

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, to the women on the road,

to Peter, to the disciples in the upper room, and to two disciples on their way home.

These two were leaving Jerusalem and going home... they had lost hope, they were sad and that's when he came and walked with them. When they came to their village and stopped for supper, he joined them and broke bread with them. It was then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. In their joy, they hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the others they had seen Jesus.

Today's Gospel picks up with the end of that story...

Jesus comes, with his greeting of "Peace" He shows them his wounded hands and feet.

He comes while they are eating a meal and even asks that he join them . "Have you anything to eat?"

Then he OPENS THEIR MINDS to understand what the scriptures had foretold. That he would suffer, die and be raised up.

So important to notice again that Jesus comes when the community is gathered. Think about us today... Jesus comes when we are gathered.

He explains the scriptures and breaks the bread... It is like our Mass... We hear the scriptures and we break the bread of the Eucharist.

Jesus says that " Christ would rise so that repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations."

What is repentance? We often think of it as being sorry for something we have done and now try to do better.

But the word comes from the Greek word, *Metanoia*... which means to turn around, to face a new direction.

It means to change our mind... to change our way of seeing things.

The disciples had to change their mind about who they thought the Messiah would be... not a king... or a military hero... But one who suffered ... who was crucified.

Have you ever changed your mind about something? (examples...)

When we look at the miracles of Jesus, we see that so many of them involved a change. ...Opening up someone's eyes... or their ears... or their tongue so they could speak. But it was more than physical.

He opened the eyes of the blind so they could see more deeply, to see with eyes of faith.

He opened the ears of the deaf so they could hear in a more compassionate way.

He loosened the tongues of the mute so they could praise God more fully and speak words of love and forgiveness.

So the REST OF THE STORY of the Resurrection is that Jesus is calling us to open our eyes , our ears and our tongues..

Like the disciples, Jesus is calling us to a new meaning of repentance..... to open our minds, to face a new direction...to change and walk a new path.

Like the disciples, He is leading us into the future and sending us on a mission to be his compassion and forgiveness and love to our world.

Though we have not seen him, we believe and He is blessing our believing.

He is with us on the way.