

Third Sunday of Easter  
April 30, 2017

Jesus transforms those who walk with him along  
“the Way.” Let us open our eyes!

Don't you love stories? I do! There are many gifted people who are storytellers and Jesus is one of them. My favorite scripture story is from the Gospel according to Luke (24:13-35), the Road to Emmaus. Just even writing down the passage numbers really brings me joy! It set my heart on fire! As far back as 1988, the year of my Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession, I chose this as the Gospel for the Mass celebrated on that occasion. And, I have already chosen this Gospel to be used for my funeral Mass at the time God calls me to Himself.



As two disciples were walking on their way to Emmaus (And have you ever thought that one of those disciples could have been a woman?), “Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.” (24:15-16) Like the disciples, this is often the case with us. We look for Jesus, but we cannot see him. Have you ever thought of yourself as being one of those disciples, walking along with Jesus and hearing the Scriptures? How many times have we been unaware that Jesus walks beside us? Are you aware of the person sitting next to you in church who has lost a loved one, or the neighbor next door who is sick and could use a meal, or even a stranger you pass who needs a smile? Jesus asks us to open our eyes and recognize his presence.

“And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.” (24:30) In this story there were two friends (disciples) and a stranger. But now there are three friends, sharing the same table. The table is the place of intimacy. It's the place where we pray, it's the place where we share Eucharist. It's our praying and celebrating the Mass together.

The Scripture line that really touches my soul is, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?” (24:32) The disciples' hearts were burning with hope and anticipation. But they still couldn't recognize him. They had to receive the bread first, then their eyes were opened. “With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him.” (24:31)

At Mass, as ordinary bread is transformed into the Body of Christ, our eyes can be opened to see Jesus. As his body is broken and shared with us, our hearts can be filled with his love and mercy and that moves us to want to serve. Just as the disciples were so full of joy that they couldn't wait to share their good news, let us go forth from hearing the Scriptures and sharing the Real Presence at Mass. The Mass is not ended. Go forth and share the Good News! Is not

your heart burning? Let us show it by being people of hospitality, welcoming the stranger and sharing the Good News, here and throughout the world. Go forth!

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