



May 8, 2011 Third Sunday of Easter "Mothers' Day"

*"Were not our hearts burning inside us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"
Luke 24:32*

Dear Friends;

The story of the disciples is one of the most marvelous of the resurrection stories. After the arrest and crucifixion the disciples have scattered. They are not only sad about their loss but also carry the guilt of having abandoned Jesus. Two of these disciples are headed to Emmaus.

Emmaus was a Roman spa town. Going there was much like we today would go to Reno or Las Vegas. They were going to escape their pain and guilt. Then the stranger approaches. They talk Scripture. They urge him to stay and eat with them and in the breaking of the bread recognize Jesus.

The resurrection stories tell us where we should be looking for the Risen Jesus—not in some tomb, dead and buried—but alive and in our midst. Luke's Gospel is telling us that we will find Jesus in the gathering of God's people, in the breaking open of the Word of God, in the Eucharist and in the mission to proclaim the Good News!

This is God's doing. The Risen One approaches us. We know we have experienced his presence by the burning that is in our hearts and in the need to tell others of the experience. To meet the Risen Jesus is to feel the call to proclaim the Gospel. Our mission is the same mission that Jesus received; and now we must extend his work into the future and throughout the world.

One of the ways that we can get to know Jesus is to familiarize ourselves with the Scriptures. One of the great gifts that we have received since the Second Vatican Council is that in the New Liturgy we hear much more of the Scriptures. From that time on we had a three year cycle that explored more fully all the Gospels, and a third reading from the Old Testament was added.

For those of you who are too young to remember, or were not cradle Catholics, in the pre Vatican II Mass there were only two readings—an epistle (letter from Paul or one of the other N. T. letters) and the Gospel (more often than not from Matthew). There was only an one year cycle, so year after year the same readings were read on the same Sunday.

Not having been a priest in those days I asked my uncle, Jerome, who has been a priest for 53 years what it was like to preach when you had the same readings year in and year out. He said it was difficult. And it really was not a homily then, you did not really wrestle with the Scripture. What you did is you had a topic and then tried to fit it in to some phrase or word you pulled out of the reading. He feels that it is much more rewarding now than it was back then.

One of the things that are repeatedly mentioned in surveys of Catholics is that they hunger for Scripture. More and more Catholics seek to break open the word of God. And when they do their hearts are on fire. The Scripture scholar, St Jerome, quipped, "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." The bible is a key to knowing Jesus. Thank God we can know more of him as we hear more of the Scriptures at Sunday Liturgy.

We are all called to experience the presence of the Risen Christ in our lives. I encourage you to find and join a small faith and scripture sharing group. Prepare yourself and your family for the Sunday readings (posted in the bulletin) by reading them aloud, ahead of time and talk about them, perhaps during or after dinner. Join us for adult faith formation on Monday nights in the Fireside Room at 6:30 PM. We are ending out the year soon but come and join us.

Peace

Fr Ron

Today, I would like to wish all those who exercise the role of Mother a Happy Mothers' Day. I read somewhere that our first experience of God is mother. She gives us birth and sustains our life with the very gift of her own body. We should never forget all that our mothers have given us. May God bless you all!