

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday the Church gives us the story of the road to Emmaus. This story is a familiar one for us. It starts out with the disciples on the road heading home. What we do not recognize as quickly is that this is the story of *our* journey. The disciples were sad, disillusioned, and questioning what was the meaning to all of this. They were talking to each other and the scripture tells us that Jesus came and walked with them but they did not recognize Him.

I believe that many times in our grief, in our pain, in our sense of fear of what is going on around us, we do not always recognize that Jesus is walking with us. Jesus asks us to tell him what is troubling us. Sometimes, Jesus enters into us through a broken heart. The story goes on to say that Jesus asked them if they did not understand that God's glory would shine through the darkness of our lives and that God had, and *still* has a plan. Jesus began to quote Scripture to the disciples to show how God's plan was to come about. I know when things are troubling for me, I try to open Scripture to find the answer, to be comforted, to be taught by the Holy Spirit. That what I am going through, and my life as a whole, has meaning and God has a plan. During this time that we are in home confinement we are called, I believe, to open the Scripture and let the Holy Spirit teach us.

The disciples were coming to the end of the day and were going to seek shelter and food. They asked Jesus to come with them. In this time of uncertainty we are especially called to invite Jesus into our homes and our lives. Jesus says, "*I stand at the Door and knock, he who opens the door I will enter and dine with them.*" Jesus is not a thief. He will only enter when we invite Him. Then the story goes on to tell us He sat down to eat, and Jesus took the bread, prayed, and broke the bread, and the disciples eyes were opened and they recognized Him. "They recognized Him in the breaking of the bread." The disciples got up and immediately headed back to Jerusalem to tell the story. It is our natural response to recognizing God's love for us to share it with others. Because in that sharing, the love does not diminish but multiplies. On the way back to Jerusalem the disciples commented, "Were not our Hearts burning?" That presence of the Holy Spirit in their souls, that same fire of the Holy Spirit, was put into our souls at our Baptism, strengthened by Confirmation, and still burns in our souls. We nurture this flame with our prayers, our service, and recognizing how good God is to us, and His great love for us all.

So as we read the Gospel for today, maybe understand that we, too, are on that road with the disciples. And more importantly with our Lord Jesus.

N.B. With the Governor's new restrictions, as for now our Churches will be closed through the month of May. There has been some relaxing of the rules. The Diocese has given permission for curb side confessions. I will be present in the parking lot of St. Mary this coming Wednesday (April 29th) from 4pm to 5pm for Reconciliation. Please enter the parking lot from the north. Please, only one car at time and only one person in the car. Please be wearing a mask. We must maintain the 6ft space. All of this of course is depending on the weather.

God Bless

Fr Tim