

Third Sunday of Easter

At Sunday school, they were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Johnny was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Dear friends,

Today we try to encounter Jesus into our lives. Life is a journey on this earth. It is a kind of pilgrimage. Our destination is in heaven with the Lord. We are supposed to prepare ourselves to meet God in our daily lives.

God came in search of human being. We are created in His image and likeness. He chose the people of Israel. However, they were not aware that God has chosen them. He made covenant with them. Finally, God came to the world as a human person. He came to His people. We can read in John's Gospel 1: 9-12, "The true light which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through Him, but the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, but His own people did not accept Him." God is in search of us always.

In today's Gospel, we see the same situation. The two disciples from Jerusalem to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus, but they talk about Jesus and what happened to Him. They believed that He was a prophet and expressed their hope that He would redeem the people of Israel. Here Jesus appeared to them on the road.

God's encounters are in an unexpected way. We can see in the bible. Gen 18:1-15 describes how Abraham, at Mamre, visited the Lord through three men unaware. Running from His troubles, Jacob laid his head on a stone while he slept and saw a stairway to Heaven. He is presented as wrestling all night with a manifestation of God in the flesh. Moses turned aside from his flock of sheep to see why a bush would burn and not be consumed and heard the Voice of God from it. Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up in the Temple. Saul of Tarsus met Jesus on the road to Damascus, and Jesus got Saul's attention by knocking him to the ground and striking him blind. God's self-disclosure to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus was unexpected, but in a radically different way from the encounters mentioned above.

As Jesus explained everything to them, they asked Him to stay with them. Then they understood everything, while He broke the bread. The lessons from the Emmaus event are to recognize the risen Jesus in the sacred scripture and the Eucharist. It is primarily these two sacraments the Christians discovered Jesus while they were on the way. The second Vatican council also states in "Deum verbum" no 21. 'The Church has always venerated the Divine Scriptures just as it venerates the Body of the Lord, since from the table both Word of God and of the Body of Christ it unceasingly receives and offers to

the faithful the Bread of Life. It has always regarded the Scriptures together with sacred tradition as the supreme rule of Faith, and will ever do so.”

His remainder inspired the two disciples. Jesus is with us always and continues to be with us in the future.

Ask yourself: Do you believe that you encounter Jesus in the “Breaking of the bread” at Mass? Do you value the Eucharist by attending it, especially on Sunday?

Does going to Sunday Mass make you kinder, more honest, more generous, and more charitable? In short, a better Christian?