

Third Sunday of Easter

A man bought the very last seat for the Super Bowl. It was a rotten seat, closer to the blimp than to the field, but early in the first quarter, he noticed an empty seat on the 50-yard line. He scrambled down and somewhat furtively sat in the seat. "Excuse me," he asked, "is anyone sitting here?" "No," said the man on his right. "That's incredible. Who in his right mind would pass up a seat like this for the Super Bowl?" "Well, actually," said the man, "the seat belongs to me. I was supposed to be here with my dear wife, but she passed away. This is the first Super Bowl in twenty years that we haven't been together. "How sad!" said the other fellow. "But couldn't you find someone to come with you, a relative or a close friend?" "No," said the man, "they're all at her funeral!"

Dear Friends,

The Easter celebration is still on for some more weeks. We hear so many recounts of Jesus' Resurrection witnesses. Today's witness speaks about the followers of Jesus. Luke describes it as "Emmaus encounter". So far, we have listened to the personal witnesses by those who were very close with Jesus. Now the outer circle, like followers of Jesus spread the good news of Resurrection and it happened in Jerusalem. The places are also important for evidence.

In today's reading, we can reflect three important messages.

1. **Jesus Is Made Known in the Breaking of the Bread:** This passage follows Christ's encounter with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They returned to Jerusalem and reported to the other disciples what they had recognized in the Breaking of the Bread – the name the early Church gave to the Eucharist celebration. Luke was not simply recording an apparition of the Risen Lord; he was also teaching that this same Lord is present in the Eucharist.

Jesus loves us, as he revealed so clearly on Calvary. He wants to forgive us our sins and give us eternal life. He desires to continue giving himself to us and to remain with us always. The Eucharist is a sign of his tremendous love. It is the source and summit of our spiritual life. It is a mystery that we need to meditate upon daily and to experience as frequently as possible in our lives. As we celebrate First Communion this weekend, it reminds us the importance of the Eucharist in our lives. Sharing a meal also brings closeness.

2. **Peace Be with you!** When Jesus shared peace with the two disciples, they had mixed emotions, confused and terrified. They did not recognize him at first. He

showed more related actions or memories to open their minds to understand the scripture.

When we open our minds to Jesus, he will make us understand him better which will bring peace.

3. **We are the witnesses:** Jesus said to the disciples that you are the witnesses and they all became witness to what happened. Peter said in the first reading that they are witnesses of Jesus' Resurrection. The second reading today talks about what to do if we are the witnesses. It tells us to follow the commandments. Jesus still needs witnesses today. How many people don't know him? How many people don't know of his love and are still burdened by sin? We who have received the gift of faith have an obligation to share it with others. The world needs witnesses. The world needs to see lives transformed by grace, coherent Catholics who live the faith they profess. We also need to witness to the transforming power of Christ in the Eucharist. Do I bring my family and friends closer to Our Lord in the Eucharist?

After I receive the Eucharist, how do I witness to the living Christ inside me?

" Be a good witness by the way you live. The way you live is often more convincing than the words we say." Billy Graham.

Preach by your lives, use words if needed. – St. Francis of Assisi.