

**A Journey with Christ is like a Walk to Emmaus – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (Acts 2:14, 22-33, 1Peter 1:17-21, Luke 24:13-35)**

I can remember during my formation in the seminary when we had a retreat and during the retreat, we had an activity called the “Emmaus Walk.” Emmaus Walk was an opportunity during the retreat to experience Jesus in a different way through other believers. I remember we were divided into groups of twos or threes and when evening was approaching, we would walk along the streets on seminary campus while discussing about our vocation and discernment. After the walk, each of us receives invitation from his sponsor or spiritual director who would encourage us to share our experiences and find ways to use our gifts, skills and live out our individual call to discipleship in home, church and community. I remember such Emmaus experiences in the Seminary were so inspiring probably like the Cursillo retreats some of us have.

Today’s gospel from Luke 24:13-35 is a story about a journey of two disciples joined by Jesus to Emmaus. We always plan or prepare for our various Emmaus Walks or Cursillo pilgrimages and we look forward to participating in them with excitement. But our story of the Emmaus Walk in today’s gospel is not like that. Cleopas and the other disciple undertook an unplanned journey with grief and sorrow after being disappointed in the happenings regarding the crucifixion of Jesus. These two disciples had hoped that Jesus would redeem them, but they thought Jesus’ crucifixion was the end.

The journey of these two disciples to Emmaus was a kind of movement from nonrecognition to recognition. Luke 24:15 says, “while they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them, but their eyes were

kept from recognising him.” Sometimes, the unhappy and tragic events of our lives can result in making us spiritually blind that we fail to recognise the presence of Christ in our lives. We are not exempted from these two disciples especially at this time of the global pandemic and devastating tornadoes. You may be wondering this pandemic is so long overdue and we are still not going to church yet and asking yourself, “Is God actually present among us?” But remember, He is with you always till the end of time.

How did the two disciples on their journey to Emmaus get to recognise the presence of the risen Jesus in their lives? The answer is found in their final testimony, “were not our hearts burning within us, when he was opening the scripture to us?” So, Jesus revealed himself to them in two elements: the scripture narratives and the meal narrative. This reflects the structure of our Eucharistic celebration which has two parts, the Table of the Word and the Table of the Eucharist. In the mass, we recognise Jesus not only in the Word, but we also recognise him in the Breaking of Bread.

Dear Friends, our first and second readings encourage us to turn our attention to the Scriptures if we want to understand what happened to Jesus and what happens to us every day. We too can encounter the Risen Jesus when we study the Word of God and take part in the “breaking of bread.” As our present circumstances cannot allow you to physically receive Holy Communion, you can receive “spiritual communion” by having recourse to spiritual communion prayers. However long our current situation lasts, we shall come out successfully. Let us just trust that the “Great I AM” is with us always till the end of time. Amen.

**By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar**