



Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday of Easter | April 30, 2017

We Know Him

By Mary Katharine Deeley

The story of the road to Emmaus is a favorite among retreat leaders because they can pair off participants to talk about hopes, fears, and dreams while they take a long walk or find a safe place to sit.

I've heard people tell dark secrets and expose long hidden resentments on such walks. It seems the act of walking loosens the tongue and allows us to look at scenery while we bring forth the courage

Sunday Readings

Acts 2:14, 22-33

"This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him."

1 Peter 1:17-21

"Realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct...not with perishable things...but with the precious blood of Christ."

Luke 24:13-35

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

to tell what is happening in our lives.

So it doesn't surprise me at all that Jesus makes his first post-resurrection appearance in Luke to two people who are walking and talking. Believing him to be a stranger, the disciples are free to tell everything about their fear, their anger, their dashed hopes, and their confusion over the empty tomb. They are able to be themselves, and Jesus does what they need him to do—he listens and hears them.

Then something remarkable happens. He opens their minds and hearts to the revelation of God in Scripture. He gives them a new way of seeing. They are eager to know more. They beg him to stay and share a meal. And, finally, they know him in the breaking of the bread and the breaking open of their hearts.

Maybe there's a lesson here for us. When we're weary or worried, perhaps we can take a walk on our imaginary road and tell Jesus everything that has happened, let him love us, and let him help us remember the Scriptures.

And, hearts lightened, we can know him again in the breaking of the bread. †

It seems we often open up during a simple walk.

A Word From Pope Francis

We all have difficulties, all of us. All of us here have difficulties. All of us here—all of us—have miseries and all of us here have weaknesses. No one here is better than another. Jesus was not indecisive; he was not indifferent. He made a decision and followed it through until the end. He decided to become man and as a man to become a servant until his death on the Cross. This is the way of love, there is no other.

*Pastoral Visit to
Cagliari, Italy,
September 22, 2013*



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Choose someone in your life to share a walk with. What do you want to share with him or her?
- What would you tell Jesus on a walk with him?



Called to Follow Jesus

By Johan Van Parys

Every time I sit at my desk, I glance at the small crucifix lying on it. It was given to me by one of the late abbots of the Benedictine abbey of Mont César in Leuven, Belgium. He had received it from the late Bishop Boleslavs Sloskans, a Latvian national who had secretly been ordained a bishop in 1926 for a diocese in the former Soviet Union. I remember the day father abbot

gave it to me with great clarity. It was the day I decided not to become a priest.

I had always wanted to be a priest. In prayer, I heard Jesus say, "Come and follow me," which I understood to mean "become a priest." When I turned seventeen, I applied to our local seminary. Visiting the abbot, my spiritual director, to explain that I didn't have "the calling" was a difficult moment. He said that while I may not be called to be a

priest, I was called to follow Christ. The latter, he continued, was more important than the former.

There is no higher or better calling than to follow Christ. There is, in fact, only one calling, and it is the one Jesus addresses to each of us: "Come and follow me." The way each of us lives out this calling can be very different. Mostly it is informed by our personal strengths and talents. Yet in the end, our fundamental calling as Christians is to become more and more like Christ regardless of who we are, where we live, or what we do. †

Source: *Liguorian*,
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Savor the Resurrection

By Fr. Paul Turner

It's not easy to keep up with the fifty-day Easter season. It's hard to stay in the resurrection experience. As humans, we aren't programmed to be that happy for that long. Even the lilies in the sanctuary will wilt before the season is half over. Memories of the Easter Vigil and Easter fade into the background as the season is overtaken by other priorities. So what's a Christian to do?

Perhaps the first tip in having a successful Easter is a successful Lent. If you've spent forty days fasting, you'll


appreciate fifty days of feasting. You will recognize the power of the risen Christ helping you overcome sin and temptation. If you have made the season of Lent a time for personal and spiritual evaluation, the rejoicing of Easter will have some real meaning; however, if your Lent was flabby, what do you expect?

A second suggestion is a successful Easter Vigil. Of course, this means you'll need to attend the Easter Vigil Mass. The Vigil Mass is arguably the most important Mass of the entire year. Only at the Vigil do you gather in the night around the fire that shatters darkness, hear the readings that reveal salvation's history, experience the return of the *Gloria* and the *Alleluia* after an absence of six weeks, and hear the first announcement of the Gospel of the resurrection. Only at the Vigil do you celebrate with the newly baptized who

have waited, prepared, and longed for this day.

Finally, now that Easter has come, what better way to celebrate Christ than to meet him day after day in the Eucharist? Such a practice can lay a strong foundation on which we can build for days to come. †

Source: *Liguorian*,
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Risen Lord, you walk with me as my friend and companion.
Help me to recognize your presence in all people.
Hopeful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 1-6

Monday	Easter Weekday: Acts 6:8-15 / Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday	St. Athanasius: Acts 7:51-8:1a / Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday	Sts. Philip and James: 1 Cor 15:1-8 / Jn 14:6-14

Thursday	Easter Weekday: Acts 8:26-40 / Jn 6:44-51
Friday	Easter Weekday: Acts 9:1-20 / Jn 6:52-59
Saturday	Easter Weekday: Acts 9:31-42 / Jn 6:60-69