



Mother Teresa: Charity

Introductory Prayer: Lord Jesus, we believe that you became incarnate to save us from Hell. We place our hope you and the Church which you formed to guide us to heaven. We ask that we may imitate your love for our brothers and sisters. You thirst for our souls. May we respond in love and charity.

Feast Day: Sept 5 **Father James Kelleher, SOLT video #1:** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyXwlGjgArg>)

Luke 24:13-35 The Road to Emmaus

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So, he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So, they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Father James Kelleher, SOLT video #2 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvG9sPtY3Z8>)

Discussion questions:

1. A Conversation with God: What is prayer? St Therese of Lisieux said: "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." Doesn't that fit with what the two disciples experienced on the road to Emmaus? "Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him" (CCC 2560 quoting St. Augustine). Mother Teresa has the words "I Thirst" written in every chapel of the Missionaries of Charity.

- a) Mother Teresa wrote: "He thirsts for you. He loves you always, even when you don't feel worthy. When not accepted by others, even by yourself sometimes – He is the one who always accepts you." How does humility help us pray? How did it help Mother Teresa?
- b) The two disciples were blind to Christ in the beginning but recognized him in the end. How did they move from blindness to light? The world will blind us ten ways to Sunday, how do we make that same movement?

2. Coming to Faith: Once the disciples recognized it was Christ, they could explain how they came to faith - both acts call us to "remember." The first act was that of Sacred Scripture. "Were not our hearts burning within us...?" In no time of history has Sacred Scripture been more accessible to us, yet we make excuses as to why we don't have time to read it. How will we remember the good things God has done for us if we don't make the time? The second and definitive way that they recognized Christ was in the "breaking of the bread" – the Eucharist. The Mass is a memorial – a remembering of the actions that began with the Last Supper and culminated in Calvary and the Resurrection.

- a) What are some practical ways that we can commit ourselves to the study of Sacred Scripture?
- b) Can we commit ourselves to a deeper participation in the Mass? In what ways? Could we make it to daily Mass?

3. Telling the Good News: Once the disciples recognized Christ, they "immediately" returned to Jerusalem to tell the others. Can you imagine their joy? It is the same joy that we recognize in Mother Teresa. Her profound and heroic charity was based in recognizing Christ in the poor and the helpless. But to take it back one step further, it was her prayer life, and her commitment to a daily Holy Hour, daily Mass, and the daily Rosary that enabled her to recognize Christ in her brothers and sisters.

- a) Why was it so important for Mother Teresa to put prayer before apostolic action? What are the risks of apostolic action without prayer?
- b) How do we live the joy of the disciples or Mother Teresa?

Men's / Women's parish team resolution for the month (choose one or suggest your own):

- Commit to weekly Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration.
- Make it to daily Mass as often as possible.
- Make a spiritual communion with the Lord daily.

Closing Prayer: One decade of Scripture Rosary: the fourth Sorrowful Mystery, the Carrying of the Cross.

Verses to be recited before each Hail Mary:

1. "If anyone wishes to come after Me let him deny himself." (Luke 9:23)
2. "And take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (Luke 9:23)
3. And bearing the cross for Himself, He went forth to the place called "The Skull." (John 19:17)
4. And they laid hold of a certain Simon of Cyrene, and upon him they laid the cross to bear it after Jesus. (Luke 23:26)
5. "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me." (Matt. 11:29)
6. "For I am meek, and humble of heart." (Matt. 11:29)
7. "And you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden light." (Matt. 11:29-30)
8. Now there was following Him a great crowd of people, and of women, who were bewailing and lamenting Him. (Luke 23:27)
9. Jesus, turning to them, said, "Do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." (Luke 23:28)
10. "For if in the case of the green wood they do these things, what is to happen in the case of the dry?" (Luke 23:31)

(Taken from www.ourcatholicprayers.com)

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