

## **Why Doubt? He lives!**

**There are two ways of experiencing the risen Lord, of growing into belief that He is risen and with us. I would like to take time to reflect on those two ways today. Let me begin with insights from our parish council.**

**Last week at a Parish Council meeting I asked the Council members to reflect on the Times during Holy Week which touched them most.**

- A few members were deeply moved by Palm Sunday procession at 11:00. All but five people got into the procession with the children getting involved clacking their noisemakers and the congregation waving their branches and singing gustily.**
- Another one mentioned the Meal on Holy Thursday. It was the first time she had attended.**
- Another member said that the Good Friday Stations of the cross by the youth put him in touch with the suffering and death of the Lord and of the people who were witness of it.**
- A final person said how impressed she was with the Baptisms on Holy Saturday evening and seeing adults die and rise with Christ as they entered the waters of baptism.**

- Participating in our Emmaus Faith sharing group for the first time
- Two people said that they had celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, one for the first time in many years and how they experienced the mercy of forgiveness of God.
- And finally one mentioned how participation in the Emmaus Faith Sharing group during all of Lent gave her a deeper appreciation of the Eucharist and of community members.

Later I reflected over what members had shared. They had poured over the scriptures and they had met Jesus in the sacraments, especially the breaking of the bread.

They, and I would imagine most of us are much like the disciples on the road to Emmaus (refer to the Gospel)

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus did not see Jesus directly. O yes, scripture says that Jesus explained how the messiah had to suffer and die to come into his glory, but they did not see him directly. It was only AFTER he had broken bread with them and disappeared that they realized that it was the Lord risen and in their midst. They did now recognize and experience him directly, only through sharing the word and sacramental meal. Yes, they were very much like most of

**us. We do not see Jesus directly but come to experience him risen and with us through reflecting on his word and through the breaking of the bread.**

**But there is a second way to experience the risen Lord, a more direct way; it is through critical experiences.**

**And that is what we are experiencing in today's gospel**

**We find the disciples locked up in the Upper Room in Jerusalem.**

**They believe the religious and civil authorities are after them, the followers of this popular rabbi, Jesus who claimed to be the Messiah.**

- **They were afraid to leave Jerusalem.**
- **Afraid to go out in public.**
- **Afraid they would end up like Jesus on a cross.**
- **They locked and bolted the doors; scared to death!**

**His appearance to them in today's gospel is DIRECT.**

**He speaks with them**

**He shows them his wounds**

**He eats with them**

### **Three signs of the resurrection**

- **Shared Peace**
- **Offered Forgiveness of sins**
- **Demonstrated that he was Risen and with them (passed through death to new life)**

**There are many people today like the disciples who wait to experience the risen Lord, his peace, his forgiveness, meet him in the Body of Christ. Here is one person.**

### **Story of man in the hospital.**

- **Recurrence of cancer; cancer of the brain**
- **Getting fitted for pants and began to have seizures**
- **Placed into induced coma**
- **Came out of coma after three days**
- **Asked for me**
- **Times in our lives when we face the possibility of physical or spiritual death like this man and like Jesus' disciples.**

**My reluctance:**

**I had visited people in hospital and at homes all week**

**I was not consciously reflecting of this different way of needing Jesus.**

**Calls upon someone whom they deem close to God and usually member of a faith community.**

**I went to visit him.**

**He is doing better.**

**Two lessons we can learn from today's gospel.**

**Know that we too can grow through our doubts of Christ being risen and with us through gathering with the faith community and by celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.**

**Become more conscious of those who are in faith crisis because they are facing either physical or spiritual death and be ready witness to them by presence and prayer of our belief in the Lord.**

**(Pause)**

**He appeared to them in the midst of their crisis of faith and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he asked them, "Why do you doubt?"**

**Then he showed them his hands and his side. And immediately they were overjoyed in seeing the risen Lord.**

**My brothers and sisters,**

**Why Doubt. He lives.**