

NOTRE DAME PARISH

Third Sunday of Easter

Two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, talking about everything that had happened (Luke 24:13ff).



We find ourselves traveling a road that's uncomfortably familiar. The road is the road to Emmaus.

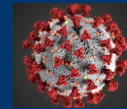
*But we had hoped...*the tumor wasn't malignant, our son or daughter would come home, our grief would lift, we would keep our jobs, to carry the baby to term, the pandemic would spare our family.

As the Covid-19 crisis continues to wreak havoc, I am grateful for the honest witness of this post-resurrection story. I'm grateful that the road to Emmaus – the road of brokenness, the road of failure – is a sacred road. A road that Jesus walks.

Debie Thomas

MUSINGS

What Covid-19 Can Teach Us



Human beings are not invincible. Despite enormous advances in medicine, science, astronomy, and technology, challenges and setbacks will always await us.

We are social beings. The idea of the self-made person is a delusion. We need each other for growth, healing, joy and celebration, mourning, wisdom, worship and faith.

In good times or in bad, we must never marginalize the sick and the dying. It is morally wrong for anyone to die alone without cause.

The poor of any color, the jobless and those who perform essential service jobs, children and the aged, are always the most vulnerable.

God is in charge. This pandemic is an invitation to live more trustingly.

All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.

--Jesus speaking to the anchorite,
Julian of Norwich

Oremus – Let Us Pray

- For the sick and infected
- For the containment of the virus
- For the protection of healthcare workers
- For caution among the young and naive
- For researchers and scientists
- For the wisdom and prudence of government officials
- For truth and accuracy in the media
- For those who grieve
- For those endangered by performing essential services
- For those laid off or unemployed
- For the continued financial support of our parish and school

Praying Begins Where We Are

When I was a seminary spiritual director, I used the story of Emmaus to illustrate the ancient form of prayer with scripture known as *lectio divina*. Like the two disciples, our prayer always begins where we are – sad? downcast? joyful? thankful? worried? doubtful?

But what happens? When we begin a conversation between where we are and the words of Christ in scripture – represented by that unrecognizable stranger – something begins to happen. The application of the scriptures to our lives begins to dawn. “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us” the two disciples reflected.

Frequently in my own life, I have missed the presence of Christ when he is right in front of me. Like someone getting too close to an impressionist painting, I have failed to see the larger composition.

During this time of discomfort and isolation, we are liable to miss Christ. We are so used to separating faith and ordinary life, so accustomed to distinguishing Sunday from the rest of the week, that we lose daily opportunities.

When I look back on my life, I find that the most painful events, the times I was so resistant to change, my experiences of fear, periods of loneliness, extended times away from family, and so much more were moments of grace. I see Christ there now, although I didn’t see him then.

When we first meet Jesus, we rarely recognize him as he truly is. We imagine him a certain way and so reject him, we see ourselves and our personal needs instead of Jesus.

Jesus is walking with us always. Life is a long walk to Emmaus. If we come to him just as we are, he will open our eyes.

Father Keith and Rocco



“We were caught off-guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented ... all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other.

Pope Francis



Welcome to heaven! Please maintain social distancing until you are processed.

The Other Side of the Virus: An Opportunity to Awaken

Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,

They say that in Wuhan
after so many years of
noise, you can hear the
birds again.
They say that after just a
few weeks of quiet
the sky is no longer thick
with fumes,
but blue and grey and
clear.

They say that in the streets
of Assisi, people are
singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows
open so that those who are
alone may hear the sounds
of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the
West of Ireland is offering
free meals and delivery to
the housebound.
Today a young woman I
know is busy spreading
fliers with her
number through the
neighbourhood so that the
elders may have someone
to call on.

All over the world people
are slowing down and
reflecting.
All over the world people
are looking at their
neighbours in a new way.
All over the world people
are waking up to a new
reality

To how big we really

we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we
remember that yes, there is
fear, but there does not
have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation, but
there does not have to be
loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to
be meanness.

Yes there is sickness,
but there does not have to
be disease of the soul.

Yes there is even death,
but there can always be a
rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you
make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory
noises of your panic-
The birds are singing
again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always
encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your
soul
And though you may
not be able
to touch across the
empty square,
Sing.

*Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM,
March 13th 2020*

KEEPING ABREAST



The Notre Dame church building is now armed with interior and exterior cameras. Hopefully this will guard us against incidents such as the disappearance of our Christmas collection last year, and previous petty vandalism.

Kudos to the team of Mike Konisek, Carl Kowalski, and Pat McDonald for ordering and installing LED lights on the east entranceway of the church. It makes that side safer and much better lit for services in fall and winter, and at night.

Again, we thank those parishioners who are keeping up their weekly giving. We continue to encourage Electronic Giving through your bank. Also, you may use your credit card for giving on our website, notredameparish.net. Use the DONATION button.

Looking for quick and short inspiration on issues of the day? Go to jesuitpost.com. Here, young Jesuits offer one to three minute homilies and reads on practical daily matters.

CHILDREN'S COLORING PAGE: The Risen Jesus appears as a stranger to two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

