

Reflection on the Third Sunday of Easter – The Road to Emmaus

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Many years ago, my family was heading down the shore and I was asked to take my five-year-old nephew along with me. It was just the two of us in the car. He could barely see out the window. So, we were on our way for this three-hour trip and just a few minutes into the trip he asked, “Are we there yet?” I said, “No, not yet.” A few minutes later he asked again, “Are we there yet?” Oh boy, only 2 ½ hours to go! This is going to be a long trip!

Aren’t we saying the same thing with this stay-at-home order? Are we there yet? Is this thing almost over? Can we get back to normal? We have a glimmer of hope, then the official word comes out and says, “No, we are not there yet; this order continues until May 8th.” Like my nephew was probably thinking on the trip to the shore, this seems like an eternity!

In our Gospel today, the two disciples are walking on the road to Emmaus traveling from Jerusalem. It is a seven-mile trip. According to Google walking seven miles takes about 2 hours, give or take a few minutes. I feel that during this virus we are on our “way” to Emmaus. We are not at the beginning, nor are we at the end; we are somewhere in the middle.

So how are we doing as we are walking to “Emmaus”? Are we on the first part of the way, where the two disciples are debating, losing hope and not recognizing Jesus as he draws near to us? Or are we on the second part of the way, where we are walking with the Lord, listening to him, letting him in, and not wanting him to leave.

Each day as we walk closer to “Emmaus,” know that Jesus is walking with us on the way! He is not only listening to us, but also teaching us as we walk with him. Notice, they don’t stop. They keep on

walking. They are getting closer and closer to Emmaus. Same thing is happening to us. We keep getting closer and closer to our destination too. Soon we will be coming to the end of this virus and join Jesus in the Breaking of the Bread at Holy Mass. In the meantime, when we get impatient and ask, “Are we there yet?”

Jesus will say to us,
“Soon, but walk with me now.”

Let us continue to pray for an end to this virus so we can all be safe and return to our normal lives.

Also, let us continue to pray for those infected with this virus and all those who are affected indirectly – especially our healthcare workers, cleaners, and all those who are considered “necessary” workers. We humbly ask, Lord, for those of us out of work, that we may safely return to work very soon.

Can’t wait to see all of you at Holy Mass and parish events. I haven’t been given any directives as to when we can return. In the meantime, know that I am praying for you. Know that you can contact me by phone or email as we walk together with our Lord to “Emmaus.” May our all-powerful Lord protect you and bless you. Amen.

Fr. Mark Speitel