

Greeting to all Faith Formation Families.

As we enter into the 3rd week of Easter, I hope many of you were able to get out and enjoy the few days of sunshine. I know I did on Sunday. Mother Nature has been playing with us a bit today. Had to remind her today, that we are Spring and not winter and that she should keep the snow to herself.

This Sunday, the Gospel Reading is the Road to Emmaus and one of my favorites. Luke 24:13-35 I am sending activities for families on the Road to Emmaus to do.

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

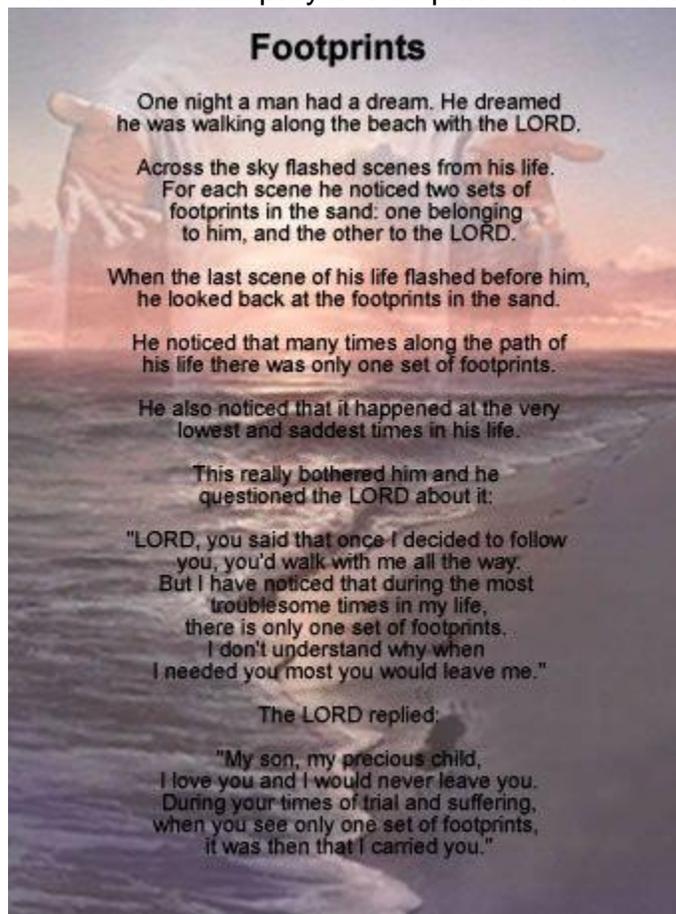
So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So He went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.² They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

I have asked Kirk Lallier to give us his personal reflection on this week's Gospel. As many of you are aware both Kirk along with Jim Henck were to have their Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate this Saturday. This was postponed to a later date due to

COVID 19. He did such a wonderful job bringing in his own experience of his Road to Emmaus and I invite all to please read.

I am also including the thoughts of Bruce Epperly on the Road to Emmaus. Here he writes that a walk and a meal can transform one's life and this is what happened in the Road to Emmaus. Here are 2 men confused as their world has been turned upside down with celebration, violence and death and the possibility of their Lord has come back to life when a 3rd man joins them. During this walk, the 3rd man talks about salvation thru the resurrection. They do not recognize that this is Jesus to whom is speaking to them. They invite him to supper, and come to know his identity as the Risen Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Their hospitality leads to a theophany, an encounter with the Risen Jesus, who is known in the simple Eucharistic acts of praying and eating. It is through movement and meal that lead them to revelation. They were so excited that they returned back to Jerusalem to let everyone know what has happened.

This leads us to remind us that wherever we are on the road and at every mealtime, Jesus comes to us, filled with energy and possibility, and the joy of resurrection. We can have a new life, and we can be born again, right now at any venue. Let's keep moving, and chart new adventures, because Jesus walks beside us on the road. So true. Just take a look at the prayer Footprints in the Sand



Bishop Lucia has provided a letter to be shared with all Diocesan Families. It is wonderful to have a Bishop who is keeping the Diocesan Family updated about what is going on and what

may be happening in the future in our Diocese. As the Bishop indicated in his letter, we are currently on hold in re-opening until it is safe to again celebrate Eucharist.

During this time, families may be facing financial difficulties due to COVID 19. During my conversation with Father Arthur, he was aware that there may be Parish families that may need additional help due to financial difficulty. He has advised that should any family need assistance to contact him directly. His number is 315-316-0506. All calls with Father Arthur will be confidential.

I will be sending out separate emails to our children making Sacraments in the fall to help prepare them for the Sacraments once they can be celebrated.

I also want to remind our Parish families that if you are able, please continue to make weekly contributions to the Parishes. Every amount will help Father Arthur pay the bills.

Thoughts and prayers are with each of your families.

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