

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Sue and Bill have been happily married for thirty years. One evening Bill is having a beer with George who was the Best Man at Bill and Sue's wedding. As they share stories about their married lives, Bill tells George how he fell in love with Sue the very first moment he saw her and that he knew she was the one he would marry someday. But George contradicts Bill's statement by saying: "Bill you have forgotten that I introduced you to Sue at a party at my home.

Remember? And as I recall you were **not** interested in her at all since you said that she was **not** your type!"

Who is right? George remembers the occasion as it was then but Bill remembers it as something more; a **special moment** that led to where he is now. Since Bill is so much in love with Sue presently, he takes that reality back in time to the moment when he first met her. He invests the past with a new significance. His wonderful loving relationship with Sue these past thirty years has affected the way he perceives and remembers their first encounter. Bill gives his first encounter with Sue a significance that it never had at the time because he sees it now in the light of their present love for each other. Bill and Sue's everlasting love for one another actually changed Bill's perception of their first encounter with each other.

Because of significant changes in our lives we often review our past with a different or new perception. We re-interpret the past in light of what is presently going on now in our lives. What appeared to be a mountain is now merely a mole-hill. What appeared to be a chance encounter or experience becomes a very significant life-changing moment in our life. Often we have to ponder and reflect upon the meaning of the experience before it can truly make sense to us. This is what happened to Peter, Cleopas and his companion in today's Scripture readings.

In the passage from our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we hear how Peter spoke to his fellow Israelites with **upmost conviction** about his belief in Jesus' Resurrection. This is the same Peter who previously had denied knowing Jesus three times. This profound change in Peter came about because of his personal encounter with the Risen Jesus and by the fact that Jesus was willing to forgive Peter for his denials. Peter can now revisit his past digression with new light and love since he has experienced a loving encounter with the Risen Jesus.

Today's Gospel passage from Luke is the most elaborate of all the Synoptic post-resurrection accounts of personal encounters with the Risen Jesus. This account features the Risen Jesus as a stranger, as an



interpreter of the Scriptures and the recognition of the Risen Lord in the "breaking of the bread". The Emmaus story of Jesus appearing to Cleopas and his companion dramatically moves from sorrowful imperceptions, through joyful recognition, to an eager and urgent proclamation that the Risen Jesus is truly alive! In their experience of the Risen Jesus, Cleopas and his companion's past has now changed. They can take the light and love of Easter back to the darkness and hate of Good Friday. In the Risen Jesus' Word and in the "breaking of the bread" the past is changed, renewed and brought up to date. The past is now interpreted in the light of the great truth that Jesus **is** the **Risen Lord**.

All of us have Emmaus-like experiences of fear, confusion, failure, discouragement, dread, disappointment and worry. However, Jesus always makes His presence known to us in His **Word** and in the **Eucharist**. Jesus also makes His presence known to us through the love and support of family, friends, community and parish. Easter faith is the recognition that the Risen Jesus **is** in our midst, in our wanting to understand, in our brokenness, and in our struggles to make things right. As we continue to celebrate the great Easter Event, may our hearts and spirits always recognize the Risen Jesus among us in every moment of our lives; in both the dark tarrying nights and the bright promise mornings. Have a blessed and joyful week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat Apr 25	5:00 p.m	Special Intention
Sun Apr 26	8:30 a.m.	For our parishioners
Sat May 2	5:00 p.m	Ann Wiechart, Murphy & Immele Families
Sun May 3	8:30 a.m.	Mary Zaleskie

SUNDAY COLLECTION



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Readings for May 3, 2020

Forth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 36 – 41

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:20 – 25

Gospel Reading: John 10:1 – 10

