



Thoughts on the Journey

Suanne Gettings – Pastoral Associate – April 26, 2020

I am certain that I have been on the road to Emmaus. As a matter of fact, I've been on the road to Emmaus many times throughout my life: not literally, but figuratively. It's a road that we have all walked at one time or another. It's that road we walk when we're lost or confused in the midst of trials and challenges. It's the very road we walk when our hopes are in Jesus and we seek answers. It's part of our quest for God in any given situation, when he is with us, but we do not see or feel him.

In my sixty-five years of existence, I have never experienced a time of quarantine such as the one we are experiencing now due to the Corona19 pandemic. At first, I didn't think much of it because I fully expected it to be a matter of days before it would be over and things would go back to business as usual. Weeks have gone by and we're still wondering how and when this will end. We're still obeying social distancing, wearing face masks, and wearing latex gloves in public. Most of us haven't even been able to see our family members and hug them. Little-by-little I could feel these changes dampening my spirit.

A couple of weeks ago, I sat with a lit candle in the room where I pray. I was silent hoping that I could hear the Lord speaking. In my anxiety, all I could hear were my own thoughts clattering about in my head. After 40 minutes, I extinguished the flame and went to bed.

For the weeks that I have been in quarantine, I've been working from home answering emails and texts, reporting for various Zoom ministry meetings, planning for fall programs, and phoning our parishioners to say hello and to see if they have any needs. The experience of speaking with our parishioners has been particularly refreshing. It wasn't long before I recognized Christ had been speaking to me through these conversations and my spirit began to lift.

In Luke's gospel, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the disciples were told to stay in Jerusalem and wait for power on high. Two disciples, however, decided to leave Jerusalem and make their way to Emmaus to resume their lives. As they walked they were discussing the events that had occurred, not quite understanding what had happened or why. You can imagine how the conversation between them unfolded. Their hopes were on Jesus. He was the one who was suppose to save Israel. But, their hopes were dashed. They staked everything on Jesus, and now they're wondering, was it worth it?

“And it happened while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him”

Jesus asked them what they were discussing. They stopped and looking downcast asked Jesus if he was the only visitor in Jerusalem who was unaware of what happened to Jesus, the Nazarene. The disciples reviewed the events with Jesus, still not recognizing him. Jesus responded to them by telling them they were slow of heart to believe what the prophets spoke about the necessity for Christ to suffer so that he could enter into glory. They continued walking until they reached their home. They pressed Jesus to stay because it was getting late. It was there, at their meal, that they recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

As we journey in our life of faith, sometimes we have all the head knowledge, but we don't make the connection to Christ being with us in every aspect of our lives. He is with us now in this time of trial and speaks to us through his people. When I waited for the Lord to speak to me and heard nothing, I later realized that he had been speaking to me all along the way. As this journey continues, let's keep our eyes focused on our Lord, listen carefully to what he is trying to say to us, and trust that he will never abandon you.