

Homily for 3rd Sunday of Easter  
April 26, 2020  
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Today the Church presents to us a beautiful passage of the Gospel of St. Luke. We do contemplate two of the disciples of Jesus on their way to the village named Emmaus. It was not so long ago that their hearts and the hearts of the Twelve Apostles had been burning with love for our Lord Jesus being ready even to die for the sake of his name, but the darkness of Good Friday and the loss of their Master caused them to be saddened and lose their gladness. We've seen all the Apostles not long ago ready to sacrifice their own life for the sake of His name: Thomas, Peter... but in these days we do contemplate them going away from Jerusalem, giving up everything. And who could dare believing that the Passion and Cross of Jesus may be ended up otherwise?

And yet, a Stranger drew near them while they were going away from Jerusalem giving up everything. A Stranger wanted to be their companion on the way and share with them their sorrow... And yet, the Gospel says that: *"their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him"* (Lk 24:16). We may place here a question: Why didn't the disciples recognize Jesus in spite of the efforts of Jesus to explain to them the meaning of the scriptures? *"It became clear"*, says Mons Fulton Sheen, *"that what blinded their eyes was their unbelief; had they been expecting to see Him, they might have recognized Him"*. We have been told that the darkness of Good Friday and the loss of their Master caused them to be saddened. Our hearts might be as well be saddened by the darkness of the Good Friday and yet, it is to us that our Lord says: *"Take heart, do not fear, it is I"*.

When the disciples met our Lord on the way *"The Savior with His infinite wisdom did not begin by saying: 'I know why you are sad'. His technique was rather to draw them out; a sorrowful heart is best consoled*

*when it reveals itself.”* (Mons. F. J. Sheen) Our Lord is awaiting that we as well in this difficult time open up our hearts to Him. Our Lord is awaiting that we as well show to Him our wounds, our sufferings and our incomprehension of everything that is going on in the world because *‘our heart will be restless until it rests in Him’* (St. Augustine, Conf. 1,1,1:PL 32,659-661).

Our Lord presented himself to his disciples on their way to the village being their companion on the way even though their eyes were closed. In fact, the Gospel states that a stranger approached them, and their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. Something similar might happen in these days, too. Often each one of us might be prevented from seeing that Jesus is waking with all this time. He is our companion on the way and yet, being saddened by all that has happened to us in the past days we are unable to acknowledge that He’s walking along with us all this time. To the disciples saddened by His death Jesus said: *What sort of thing are you talking about? Did He not promise to us by the mouth of the prophet David that He’ll never abandon us, saying: “My heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety; For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. You will show me the path of life, the fulness of joy in your presence, at your right-hand happiness forever”*.

Jesus is our companion on the way towards heaven and He’ll show us the path of life. It is difficult for us, as it were for the disciples of our Lord, to recognize it. Writes Fulton Sheen: *“It is only in the moment when bread was broken the broken hearts of the disciples at last went to recognize their divine Master.”*

May this Eucharist, in which we physically and you spiritually are participating, enable us to see the Lord always mysteriously present among us and let it made our hearts burning ever stranger with love for Him who loved us *“to the end”*.