

### **Third Sunday of Easter April 18, 2021**

Last Saturday afternoon, I had my Covid vaccine. As luck would have it, I reacted to the vaccine. For twenty four hours I was down and out with flu like symptoms. The information sheet they give you at the clinic says to take it easy and sleep lots until feeling better. So, as I took it easy Sunday afternoon, I got out my iPad and watched the first episode of season two of “The Chosen” the video series about the life of Jesus. The scene opens with John interviewing the disciples as he begins the task of writing down all that happened while Jesus was with them. John is having trouble deciding where to start the story and says “I want people to know, Jesus was so much more than what could be seen or touched.”

In today’s Gospel from Luke, Jesus appears to the disciples who were both terrified and startled and who thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus says to them “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself.” It wasn’t until Jesus ate a piece of broiled fish that the disciples believed it was really him.

The disciples could not understand how Jesus could rise from the dead. You see, there were many others who claimed to be the Messiah and they too, were crucified. Those that followed a particular “Messiah” knew once that person was crucified, it was game over. Might as well pack up and go home! This was the end of the story. But, as we now know, this was not the case with Jesus. His death was just the beginning of the story!

The disciples, who had been with Jesus through it all, did not recognize him in his risen state. Could you blame them? Perhaps Jesus in his risen body looked different. Of course the disciples were confused, were in awe and wonder to see someone who had died now alive in their midst!

How often do we fail to recognize Jesus in those around us? Think of Jesus as being the person you were impatient with in the parking lot or rude to on the phone. Do we fail to recognize how close Jesus is to us at all times? Maybe we fail to recognize Jesus in the priest who celebrates Mass or in the people around us at Mass. Do we recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread that comes to us in the Eucharist?

When Jesus came and appeared to the disciples he “opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.” Let these words affect your heart. It is one thing to profess with your lips, but another to profess from your heart. Let us be examples of hope to those around us, living out our discipleship so others will know, Jesus was so much more than what could be seen or touched. He is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reflection by Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister.