

Homily for the Third Sunday of Easter
26 April 2020
Sacred Heart – St. Louis Parish

“Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Reading 1 – Acts 2:14, 22-33

Psalm 16 – **Lord, you will show us the path of life**

Reading 2 – 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel – Luke 24:13-35

Homily for the Third Sunday of Easter

Today my brothers and sisters, we come to the Third Sunday of the Easter season. We continue during these fifty days of the Easter season to celebrate the Lord’s resurrection. We have seen in many of the readings over the last couple of weeks of how the disciples first encountered Jesus after he has been placed into the tomb and the tomb the next morning was found empty. During those first days following Easter Sunday, we heard of how Jesus was revealing himself, showing the disciples that he had indeed risen and was still with them.

Last Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday, we were told how Thomas, that has become known as the doubter, did not believe the others when they told him that the Lord has revealed himself to them. He did not believe it. He wanted to have a physical encounter with Jesus. He wanted to touch his hands and his side. He wanted to see the wounds of his Lord with his own eyes. Jesus granted him that wish leaving Thomas with no doubts in his mind.

On Divine Mercy Sunday this year, we read during Mass about how Jesus also breathed on the disciples the Holy Spirit and gave them the ability to forgive sins. The sacraments are coming into shape in these early days of the Church. On Holy Thursday we celebrated the priesthood and the sacrament of the Eucharist, take and eat, take and drink, do this in memory of me. Now we see that beginnings of the sacrament of Reconciliation. We have been given these concrete sacraments so that we have a way to encounter Christ in a concrete way, so that we will not be like Thomas and doubt.

In our Responsorial verse today we hear the words; “Lord, you will show us the path of life.” The Lord does indeed show us the way as we are on our path through life because our life is indeed a journey. We are on a road so to speak, just like the two disciples that we find on a journey today. They are on their way to Emmaus. We are on our way to heaven, to eternal life with God. As with any journey that we take in this life, we need to make sure that we have directions. We need to make sure that we know where we are going. In today’s world that is much easier than it used to be. Think of the Magi, they followed a star. When I was a kid, we used to plan our trips by looking over maps and trying to plan which way we are going to go. Today, it is much easier, we can just type our destination into our smartphones and voila, it gives the fastest and most direct route, sometimes even routing us around traffic and construction detours.

As we make our journey to heaven, we must turn to the Lord to give us direction. He will always show us the way in which we need to go. As we are actually making our journeys, we will often encounter different people in our

life that will help us stay on the path or they will help us get back on the path if we have somehow ended up losing the way. These encounters are truly amazing. I know that I can recount in my own life different times when I have been on the path of life and I encountered different people that crossed my path that helped me out along the way. Looking back now, I can say that many of the people and encounters were arranged specifically by God to help me on my journey, encouraging me and sometimes getting me back on track. If we sit back and think about this for a few moments, we can think about our own journeys and remember people that we have crossed paths with that have helped us out.

Sometimes God uses regular people for this task, sometimes God sends angels or other creatures to cross paths with us. Sometimes Jesus himself comes to us. It is important we learn to recognize these individuals when they come to us, because they all are there to help us out.

In the Gospel today there are two of the disciples and they are on the road to Emmaus. They are walking along, and they encounter a man on their journey. They do not know who this man is. He asks them; "What were you discussing." Now at first the disciples are shocked. They were talking about things that just happened. Their teacher that they were following and learning from had just been crucified and now he has been appearing to the disciples. Everyone in these communities and all the people in Jerusalem by now knows very well what has happened. We all know how fast gossip travels today, which is very quick especially in the age of text messages and instant messenger. But it wasn't that much slower in days past. Gossip spreads and this would have been

the talk of the town. The disciples ask, are you the only one that has not heard of the events that have been taking place?

They shared with him what happened and finally Jesus replies; “how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke.” Jesus went on to explain the scriptures and how the scriptures, beginning with Moses and the prophets had to spoke to him. Jesus stayed with them for dinner as the time grew late and as he broke bread with them, they recognized that it was Jesus, they recognized him in the breaking of the bread and then he vanished. This encounter that this disciples just experienced was an encounter that solidified further their belief that the Lord is indeed Risen, just as he said. They were indeed on the right path.

In our life and in our journey, we have these encounters that help us to know that we are on the right path. These encounters help us all the more to deepen our conviction that this is indeed the correct path and our Lord is making sure that we are staying on the path. We have to be open to listening and paying attention to all the things that are going on around us. We have to be able to recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

All too often we are so busy running around from here to there and everywhere in between. We are off to work early in the morning, we get the kids to school, lunches made, we make sure that all the kids are dropped off at the right school with the correct lunches and homework and then we run off to work where we run and run and run from one thing to the next, then there are all the activities

that the kids need to be shuttled to in the afternoons and homework, dinner, time with spouse, shopping, laundry, etc. There is just so much.

All of that has mostly stopped this past month. We have had time to relax a bit, clear our calendars, clear out the clutter in our minds and just be. Yes, I know that there are still many worries, but most of us have had more time at home to just slow down. I know that we are anxious to get back to many of the activities that we have in our lives, but we must be careful. We have been given an unprecedented worldwide reset. Everything has stopped and we need to make sure that we don't go rushing back to the same hectic schedule that we had before. We must listen to what God is saying to us in these days and events of social distancing and staying at home. Let us recognize Jesus and where he is right now in our lives and recognize where and how he is wanting us to go today.