



Fr. Fred Liccio

Dear Friends,

The Parish Office, just like you, gets TONS of junk mail, ads, solicitations, etc. etc. every day. Most of it gets a quick toss. But every once in a while something catches my attention.

Yesterday's mail brought a card from *Life Teen* Catholic Youth Ministry, which we have utilized for quite some time here at St. Mary. What struck me was the statement on the front of the card. It read:

The road to Emmaus still exists.

The road just looks different.

That really got me thinking. First of all I love that Gospel passage (Luke 24: 13-35) and I would highly recommend that for our prayer and reflection today. There are the two disciples who, after Jesus was crucified, felt lost and abandoned, and their discouragement caused them to "go home." So on the day of Jesus' resurrection they left (everything?) and went back to where they came from -- or so they thought. On the road they meet this "stranger" who tells them all that had happened to Jesus and how the Scriptures were fulfilled in Him. Not recognizing Jesus, they were still enthralled by what He was teaching them, and they in turn invited this stranger to stay and dine with them. It was in the blessing and breaking of the bread that they realized who the stranger was, that it was Jesus alive again! But he vanishes from their sight. They immediately return to the Apostles and report the whole event to them.

We are still seeking the Lord in our lives, perhaps now more than ever. But viruses and worries and the crosses we must endure sometimes blind us to recognizing that Jesus IS with us, always. The "road" to finding Him might look different -- not being able to gather for Mass or to pray together or to spend time in the church or spend a Holy Hour in Adoration -- but the road that leads us to Jesus **still exists!**

Let us take time in prayer, today and every day, seeking to recognize the Risen Lord in our midst. May we invite Him to stay with us, to enter our hearts, to fill us with His blessings and His peace.

Have a great day!

Father Fred