

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On this Third of Sunday of Easter, we see Peter speaking boldly and with such authority to the Jews and Israelites about Jesus of Nazareth. He reminds them that Jesus was commended to them as a gift of the Father for their freedom and a sign of God's ineffable love for them. Despite having rejected this gift and condemning him to death, he rose from the dead, signifying that death holds no sway over life for those who follow the Son. Peter echoes the words of David which speak of hope and faith that the Lord will never abandon those who seek him. I particularly like these words: "You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence." This is truly an "ah ha!" realization of God's unyielding love for us. As companions of Jesus on the road of life, we know that he leads us to God's glory, revealing to us along the way that God's love is indeed steadfast and enduring, even in those moments when God's presence seems elusive and absent.

Most especially during these days, we can easily identify with the disposition of the disciples journeying from Jerusalem to Emmaus, as accounted in Luke's Gospel. The disciples are downcast and disheartened as their dream of Jesus being the Messiah who would save the Jewish people. Their sadness and pessimism were quite natural and to be expected. Yet, in their lament they failed to recognize that it was Jesus himself who was accompanying them on the journey. How familiar does this sentiment resonate with us?? Jesus admonishes the disciples and challenges both their lack of faith and their lack of understanding that he had to endure suffering and death in order to fulfill the prophetic voices which spoke of his resurrection as the means of redemption for our sins.

Luke's description of Jesus as they approached Emmaus is quite interesting. "He gave the impression that he was going on farther." This statement has fascinated me for a long time so I looked up a biblical commentary for some insight. The Navarre Bible: Gospels and Acts offers this interesting point: "This Lord of ours never forces himself on us. He wants us to turn to him freely, when we begin to grasp the purity of his love which he has placed in our souls. We have to hold him back ('they constrained him') and beg him: 'Stay with us, for it is towards evening and the day is now far spent.'" When Jesus dignified the choice made by Cleopas and the other disciple by staying and joining them for a meal, their eyes were opened when he took the bread and blessed them.

In many ways, this life's journey is a series of Emmaus moments, a walking along the path of life and experiencing all of the human emotions that make up our condition: sadness and loneliness, loss and bewilderment, companionship, misunderstanding, surprise and joy, burning hearts at recognizing Jesus in all of the contours of our lives. This precise moment is very much an Emmaus time for us. As we come to experience a radical change in our lifestyles, notice that we are walking along the road at a slower pace, soaking in the life that God intended for us, taking time as families to eat together instead of running hither and yonder, getting to know one another as never before. In all this our eyes are opening up and our hearts are burning.

The other evening I was going for a drive to clear my head and this song came on the radio. It is such an upbeat and positive song and I've decided it's going to be our Saint Pius anthem especially as we strive to remain positive and patient amidst all of the uncertainty we are feeling. I hope listening to this song brings a smile to your face and be sure to pass it on!!!!

“Sunday Best” by Surface (Forrest Frank and Colin Padelecki)

Feeling good, like I should
Went and took a walk around the neighborhood
Feeling blessed, never stressed
Got that sunshine on my Sunday best

Everyday can be a better day despite the challenge
All you gotta do is leave it better than you found it
It's gonna get difficult to stand but hold your balance
I just say whatever cause there is no way around it cause

Everyone falls down sometimes
But you just gotta know it'll all be fine
It's ok, uh-huh
It's ok, it's ok

Somedays you wake up and nothing works you feel surrounded
gotta give your feet some gravity to get you grounded
Keep good things inside your ears just like the waves and sound did
And just say whatever cause there is no way around it

Everyone falls down sometimes
But you just gotta know it'll all be fine
It's ok, uh-huh
It's ok, it's ok.

Feeling good, like I should
Went and took a walk around the neighborhood
Feeling blessed, never stressed
Got that sunshine on my Sunday best (x2)

Please join us with Father Cameron Faller, Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, in praying the Novena to Saint Charles Borromeo for priestly vocations. My continued thanks and gratitude for our parish staff and volunteers who are being present to one another. Also, many thanks to the Redwood City police officers who have been checking up on our grounds to make sure we are safe and secure!

Fr. Tom