Third Sunday of Easter — April 23, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Friends often invite one another for a walk. Especially in time of trouble, one might receive such an invitation. Perhaps along a wooded path., two friends discuss the hurts and the disappointments found in family or at work. Unfortunately, there is the chance that the two friends might address one another in such a way that the conversation never really plunges into the depths of difficulty. The two may mirror at each other's pain, rage and hurt. All told, the end of their walk finds them arriving only at more bitterness than they had at the beginning of their trek. However, there is the possibility that they will truly listen to one another. The end of their journey might find them not at the point of resolution, but at an understanding of the significance of life's hurts within the larger picture of life. This latter conversation only happens when the two friends are open to the presence of a third partner in the conversation: reflectiveness.

We hear this weekend of Cleopas and his companion, early disciples, on the familiar road to Emmaus. They have witnessed the death of Jesus. This Jesus was the hope of all Israel. This Jesus had seemed to be the one that would lead the people to freedom and peace. And yet he was executed as a political but innocent victim by the Roman authorities. Certainly the dreams of these two disciples had been dashed. The one in whom they had placed their trust was seemingly gone, and with him, the hope of liberty. But suddenly, someone was in their midst who enticed them to see beyond their limited memory. This sudden partner in their conversation broke open to them the meaning of that death and once again their dreams were kindled. But this stranger was completely unknown to them. This seen and invited guest was revealed to them in the intimacy of their evening meal. Broken Bread and Blessing. The one who was dead lives. "And did not our hearts burn."

All Christians, like the two companions, must enter into the three rhythms of faith story as we find it today in this narrative. First, the pilgrimage of the Christian life is not a guarantee that our daily existence will be exempt from the rocks and dust that are part and parcel of simply being human. We encounter the harsh realities of our personal and social lives, and we know that there is no escape for believers from the problems of loneliness, despair, violence and poverty. It is imperative that we walk the road if the word is truly to set the world on fire.

In walking the road, we must take the risk and allow the Lord to walk with us and help us to understand. "Jesus was a walker." Jesus walks with us in our lack of understanding, our hurting, our bitterness. Christians will encounter the evils of life. But there is the invitation from God that we surrender our lack of understanding into the hands of Christ who is always there to console and heal.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**April 25**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Wed.	**April 26**	**11:00AM**
Cecilia Bernas†		Marcella de Leon
Thur.	**April 27**	**11:00AM**
Roberst Banaga Sr. †		Marcella de Leon
Fri.	**April 28**	**11:00AM**
Ruperto Del Rosario†		Marcella de Leon
Sat.	**April 29**	**4:30PM**
Pauline Cardoza †		ICF #14
Sun.	**April 30**	**9:00AM**
Yvonne & Patrick Trajano†		Pena Family
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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