Third Sunday of Easter — April 26, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

An army chaplain in World War II was approached one Sunday and asked: "Father, I am a Protestant, I notice that our services have some participants, but yours are always crowded. So many of the men come to your Sunday services. We have the readings of the Bible. We sing and pray. What do you have besides that?" The chaplain answered: "Son, we too have the Bible readings, and we sing and pray. But we have something more; we have the Eucharist. And the Eucharist is Christ in His very special presence. Christ is on the altar, and every Catholic soldier knows it. There is no other reason for the crowds.

They were very downhearted, these two disciples on the way to Emmaus. It was as if the light had gone out with the death of Jesus and they were in darkness and doubt. Then He met them, He walked with them, He addressed and questioned them, and He began to instruct them. As they listen to His words, it was as if a mist were lifted from their eyes. Now they were alive once more, hope springing up in their hearts. Now they were full of interest, asking Him questions, for His words set them on fire: "Were not our hearts burning inside us as He talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us."

The Word of God in the Scripture is a living word, a vibrant chord, a source of strength. Christ lives in His word. He, the Risen Lord, is the source of all life by the gift of His Spirit. The Spirit inspired the writing of the Sacred Books, to impart courage and life to humankind. Many a man was converted by a single passage of the Gospels or Epistles, as was St. Augustine who was converted from a sinful life and led on to a new life in Christ. The two disciples in this weekend's reading were enkindled with new fire, their hearts shook off all darkness and doubt. Even then, this encounter did not reveal Jesus to them as yet. Only when they had invited Him to eat with them and He broke bread with them, sharing the Eucharist with them, were their eyes opened, and they recognized Jesus for what He really was; the Risen Lord, the Messiah King of Israel. But then He disappeared at once. For our eyes are not to enjoy the vision of the Risen Lord until the day of glory and reward. Now He must be accepted on faith. He is in our mist always, but He is hidden from sight, while faith alone discloses Him to us.

It often happens that reading the Scriptures or receiving and celebrating the sacraments leaves us without noticeable effect. Our feelings are rather cold. But the encounter with Christ need not be one of the senses. It is the spirit, and the spiritual effects will always be a deepening of the Christ-life within us in faith, hope and love. We enjoy a greater peace of heart, a security of purpose, a determination to forge ahead always onward and upward. Indeed, the encounter has not been in vain.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**April 28**	**N/A**
Eolando Uy †		Bernas Family
Wed.	**April 29**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**April 30**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**May 1**	**N/A**
Concepcion K. De Vera †		Mariano Family
Sat.	**May 2**	**N/A**
David Bottta †		Bill & Diane Thomas
Sun.	**May 3**	**N/A**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**N/A**
Walter Ligon †		Mary & Moira

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