

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



While they were speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

The disciples were speaking about Jesus, and about what had occurred in Jerusalem. They were talking about the Last Supper, about the night in the garden of Gethsemane, about the betrayal, about the farce of a trial, the Passion and the Crucifixion, and about how Jesus had appeared to two of them on the road to Emmaus.

Their conversation was about all these things, the things they had experienced. Of course, they were talking about these things, they are disciples, that’s what they are supposed to talk about.

Truth is people don’t usually talk about these things.

People talk about the weather, sports, politics, the stock market, the price of gas, our job, our school, our vacations, our pets, our plans for the summer...but conversation about Holy Week and Easter is probably not part of our daily interactions.

A couple of years ago I was invited to a family dinner on Easter Sunday. There were at least twenty people around the table. During the course of the meal, the host invited everyone present to say a word about their experience of Easter. I was surprised that those at table did not just say “I liked this” or “I liked that.”

People began to speak existentially. That is, they began to speak about how they had lived Easter, saying how and in which way they had experienced God in Holy Week and the Triduum. In speaking about these things, I could sense that God became present at that table.

The Fathers of the Church said that a meal in which God is not mentioned is like a pagan sacrifice. To sit down and eat without mentioning God is like sacrificing to idols.

That thought brought back memories of my childhood, when it would have been unthinkable to sit down as a family to eat without at least saying a prayer together first –grace before meals.

The word and the breaking of bread. These two things make those at table experience communion. While we speak of these things Jesus himself comes to stand in our midst. The disciples were talking about all these things when Jesus himself came and stood in their midst.

The same Jesus who was crucified and died, and who is now Risen, is able to come and stand in our midst today. He appeared to the disciples at Emmaus when they sat down to break bread. He appeared to the disciples in Jerusalem as they were talking about these things. The risen Jesus Christ can be a guest in our home and at our table today. What will you talk about at lunch today?

Fr. Sean