

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION by: Father Rody Mejia
APRIL 18 2021...3RD SUN OF EASTER...YR-B...LK 24, 35-48

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

Last year at the height of the pandemic, my friends at Indiana texted me ‘Fr. better buy your stuffs, things are getting out of the shelves ...one text message said Fr. the first thing you need to grab is toilet papers.’ Obedient to the text message oh my goodness true enough I did not see any toilet papers... admittedly I panicked.

Just to keep myself abreast of the situation I started watching YouTube...again another topic popped up...PREPPERS---vloggers have their own list of things to buy...how to arrange things in the pantry etc. etc. Oh no what a stressful situation I said to myself.

Even during the time of Jesus (after His resurrection), the situation was really stressful...His disciples did not know where He is not only that even among themselves they had their own version of their stories...there were also restrictions from the king that those who would believe in Jesus would be punished (Saul received this instruction)...people did not know which to believe because the chief priests in cahoots with the elders fabricated a story that the body of Jesus was stolen by his very own disciples.

So here we are, Jesus has to do something again---‘Hey calm down please...you are so stressful...relax...PEACE BE WITH YOU.’ All you need to do first is compose yourself. You cannot achieve anything if you are disoriented. ‘Let me refresh you of what I told you before.’ Jesus said to them. And gradually peace is sinking into their mindset...into their whole being. Jesus Christ has to calm them down...even us now... He is telling us, ‘Hey Rody there is more than toilet papers that should preoccupy you, seek that first...if death has no more power over Me then pandemic should not rule you...just inhale exhale calm down give your stress to Me and you will find rest in Me...you would eventually see how peaceful life is despite the presence of COVID-19.’



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION by: Father Dave Nazimek

3rd Sunday of Easter - The disciples are huddled in the upper room and have been listening to the two disciples who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus. The lives of these two disciples was turned upside down by their meeting with the Risen Lord and they wanted the other disciples to hear all about it. What were the feelings in the room at that moment? Perhaps some were jealous that it wasn't they who had met Jesus on the way to Emmaus. Maybe a few were still sitting in stunned belief – "Can this be true" There might even have been a few who believed that what the disciples had told them was true, but were angry because they didn't know how they could meet Jesus.

Immediately after the telling of their story Jesus Himself appears in the room. He interrupts all their solitary musings and the tender emotions of that moment, and He wakes everybody up with His presence. Some are still slow to understand what is going on – "Is it a ghost? How do I get out of here?" But Jesus reassures them, "It is I!" And He gives them His peace. He is the same Master they had known but He is changed and glorified. The telling of the Emmaus story had set the scene and prepared the hearts of the disciples. However, the telling of their story could not substitute for the other disciples' own meeting with the Risen Lord. They no longer need to speak about the peace of the Risen Lord, for all the disciples now experience it for themselves.

Each of us is called to share the Good News of the Risen Lord. A vital part of that sharing is the telling of our own experiences of God and God's saving love for each of us. Yet, it is vital for us to remember that, powerful though our sharing may be, it can never truly bring someone else to faith. Only a personal meeting, an encounter, with the Risen Lord can truly bring the peace that the world cannot bring. We are bearers of Good News but it is the Lord Himself Who will bring the word we share to fruition. As servants of the word we share the Good News freely, but we do not assume responsibility for everything that happens. Perhaps someone may be resistant at first to the knowledge of God's love for them; perhaps they may even be hostile because of some past hurt. Whatever the situation, we simply share our trust in Jesus and pray that, in the fullness of time, the person may come to a personal knowledge of God for himself or herself.

The Emmaus disciples told their story and prepared the other disciples for the appearing of the Risen Lord. Let us be bold and generous in sharing the Good News that we have received. Let us be proud to profess our faith in Jesus our Lord. And let us also be gentle, trusting that the Lord's desire for these people to draw near to Him is much stronger and more influential than our meager words.

Let us pray for the Conversion of the World & for Peace