

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

April 26, 2020 • 3rd Sunday of Easter • Luke 24:13–35

## Jesus in Our Midst

*The story of disciples who encounter Jesus on their walk to Emmaus is found only in Luke, but it offers us an important insight into what the Eucharist is about. The story takes place three days after Jesus was crucified. Two of his followers are returning home, feeling dejected. Jesus joins them, but they don't recognize him until he sits down with them at table and breaks bread with them.*

The walk to Emmaus is one of my favorite Gospel stories. Two ordinary folks, disciples of Jesus, are walking home. They are sad and discouraged. Everything has gone wrong: All they had hoped for was gone. Jesus joins them, but they don't recognize him. They begin to share what had happened back in Jerusalem and Jesus reminds them of the Scripture readings that foresaw such happenings. During the walk, they do not recognize Jesus. It is at table, in the breaking of the bread, that their eyes are opened.

I think one of the reasons I like this story is that it is such a clear reminder that Christ is in our midst. It is easy to talk about the Jesus we find in Scripture, or the glorified Christ who sits at the right hand of the Father. It is often easier to believe in the miracle worker and King of Kings than to see Christ in the face of a stranger or beggar. It is sometimes even more difficult to see Jesus in the people we walk with every day—the people in our own homes.

Here's my updated replay of the walk to Emmaus. A woman (or man) comes home from work tired and discouraged. After a half hour of breathing space (we all need time to disengage), she sits down

and shares her day with her husband or offspring. The listener becomes the storyteller as he shares his day. Each person is gently affirmed. Finally, they all sit down together at table, and as they tear into a pizza they smile at each other as they recognize the look of Christ in the face across from them.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Ask each family member to name one quality of Jesus they see in each of the other family members.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

Experts tell us we all need at least 20–30 minutes of quiet time to let go of tensions when we come home from work or school. Do you think this is a good idea for your household? How can you arrange it? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?