

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

THE EUCHARIST TRANSFORMS INTO DISCIPLES



My brothers and sisters in Christ, once again this Sunday, we have three inspiring texts that bring testimonies about the resurrection of Jesus. First, we have that of the apostle Peter. In his life there was a radical change. But on the day of Pentecost, everything changed: the apostles received the Holy Spirit. From now on, Peter can testify with strength and courage: **“This Jesus whom you killed on the cross, God has resurrected.” His death is not a failure. He is alive forever;** We find this call from Peter in the 2nd reading: this Jesus who died and rose again is the savior of all men. It was not gold and silver that redeemed us from the superficial conduct of our fathers; it is by the precious blood of Jesus Christ that we are purified. **His love exceeds anything we can imagine.** We are invited to receive this letter as a call to true conversion.

This Sunday's Gospel tells us what happened following Jesus' meeting with the disciples at Emmaus. For them, it was all over. They were completely demoralized. All they had to do was return home to Emmaus. But on the way back, a stranger joins them. It's Jesus but they don't recognize him. To know and understand the event, they will need two important steps: First, the explanation of the Scriptures; **Jesus lets them speak of their dismay; then He takes up everything that is said about Him by Moses, the prophets, and the psalms...** Secondly, there was what happened when they gathered for a meal: **they recognized Him from the breaking of bread. Then everything changed for them. Despite the late hour, they return to Jerusalem to announce the good news to the eleven apostles.**

We meet this same Jesus at every mass. He renews for us what He did for the disciples of Emmaus. He enlightens us with his word, and He shares His Eucharistic Bread with us. We must then ask ourselves a question of the utmost importance: What will be left when we leave? Do we have the same enthusiasm and the same state of mind as the disciples of Emmaus? Maybe we don't experience our Masses enough as a highlight. Every week, we are called to nourish ourselves at the table of the Word and that of the Eucharist. **If we have truly met and welcomed the Lord, we understand that we still must do the same thing as the disciples of Emmaus: leave with the same enthusiasm as them and announce it to others in our lives by becoming his instrument of peace, love, compassion, and justice.**

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