

April 29-30, 2017

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14-33

First Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24:13-35

To many people's way of thinking, those VERY succe\$\$ful folk who are VERY unassuming, grounded, normal and don't make a big deal of their success are frequently the best sort of people to hang with. Without airs their interactions are genuine, they speak a language we can easily understand and they go about relationships the old-fashioned way, earning the trust of those with whom they interact by being REAL. All too often our upwardly mobile culture is about show, flash, bling, 'accessories of accomplishment' and relationships are built on 'what can you do for me'...or...'how will being with you increase my chances for success' rather than an immersion within the mystery of friendship, fidelity and love. For some, Jesus was a failure, a man with sooooo much potential but who went up against the entrenched interests of his day and wasted his life by allowing it to end on a humiliating cross. People such as these were the sort who, once they saw Jesus embracing the pain and suffering of the Cross, walked away and looked for someone else to whom they could hitch their wagon of self-interest. For those overwhelmed with grief and loss of their friend and companion, Easter Sunday was a perplexing day of mystery, flavored with a generous dose of confusion. Let's not forget that Thomas required an entire week to have his doubts erased when Jesus confronted him and challenged him to 'put your finger into my hands, your hand into my side.' This weekend we are back on the FIRST Easter Sunday, with some very confused and grieving disciples leaving/fleeing Jerusalem when JESUS himself starts to walk with them...but they are so certain of what they think they know that they do not recognize him. JESUS, the resurrected Son of God, chooses to unassumingly walk with his companions without any flash or impressive signs or wonders...no angels singing, no flowers springing up as he strolls the road, no graves opening as he passes them...just Jesus that walks and talks with his confused friends. Finally, in the 'breaking of the bread' they are able to see through the blindness of their grief and recognize Jesus. This weekend we are encouraged to review our own paths in life so as, in hindsight, to recognize when Jesus unassumingly walked with us...through our confusions, darkness, losses, pain and anger. As last week we were encouraged to consider that our own wounds are INDICATORS of where grace lies hidden in our lives, this week we are urged to see not what we WANT to see...but look around ourselves with the eyes of faith....and perhaps be surprised with how many times we might see Jesus walking beside us.

Thank you for walking with our Santa Clara community through these mysterious weeks of Easter as we continue to make sense of the empty tomb of Easter morning. **With Mother's Day two weekends away, you are welcome to utilize the special envelopes at the entrances so as to enroll your moms, living or deceased, in the special series of May Masses offered for our Moms.** This has been a busy, busy weekend with Confirmation on Friday and the Women's Tea on Saturday...**special thanks to Kirstin King and her Youth Ministry team and Maria McFarland with her incredible TEAM** for making this a weekend filled with life and vigor. **Next weekend there will be an UNUSUAL and singular Second Collection** to benefit the *BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION in Washington D.C.* Still being 'built out' after opening to the public in 1959, the Basilica is OUR American cathedral...and needs our help in order to complete present plans. Your generosity is appreciated (and more information is included in the Bulletin.) Enjoy these final days of April and prepare your allergies for the ample May flowers sure to bloom after all our rains...and remember, you are loved. FKB