

## **Third Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2020**

St. Vincent de Paul Church, Baltimore

### **REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL**

**LUKE 24:13-35**

This gospel, beginning on the road to Emmaus, is one of my favorites. The pendulum of feelings it evokes from the disciples' dejection and deep sorrow over the death of not only a friend but someone they thought would save Israel from oppression, transitions to joy and understanding! The powerful words, "Were not our hearts burning within us", never fail to grab me and catch my breath. When I sing that line in the song, "In the Breaking of the Bread" I feel such strong emotion that I truly relate to the disciples' reaction. Then the realization dawns, in the "breaking of the bread their eyes were opened"! Even singing it alone at home, it brings tears of joy.

My hope is that each week on my journey, my eyes will open a little more and I will see things differently, how Jesus wants me to see them, as He works through me. When my eyes are clouded by self-interest, fear, and worldly desires, I want to remember this gospel. I want to remember the incredible power of the resurrected Jesus, living in me. I want to embrace God's presence within me as I learn to be my best self.

The carrying of the flame after the Liturgy of the Word, from the ambo candle to the altar candle, for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, is a beautiful reminder of this very gospel. On the road Jesus interpreted the scriptures for them but it was the Eucharist that finally let them see. Both help us to understand this Kingdom of God. What a shock it must have been to the disciples to try to understand a Kingdom greater than Rome, based on love and service; not to be the victors but the servants. Growing up Christian, this should be more palatable for me, but how often I take the comfortable way! Even though I know God is always with me, receiving the Eucharist reinforces that I am one with Jesus. I pray He will transform my heart and guide me to God. I am thankful for Him showing me my path and ask the Holy Spirit to help me follow it.

I am truly grateful to Father Ray, the Liturgy Planners and Liturgy Committee for opening the Scriptures for me each week in such beautiful ways. "Suddenly our eyes were opened, and we knew He was alive!" Alleluia!

*Peggy Meyer*