

April 30, 2017
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we journey through life with all of its problems and distractions we can easily lose our perspective. However, positive support and sincere understanding can place us on the right path. This is what our readings today tell us; hope will come when we expect little. Human hope is a fragile thing and when it withers it's difficult to revive. Hopelessness is a disease of the human spirit and is desperately hard to cure. Today God challenges us to meet the Risen Christ who comes to us in ordinary life situations. All of the Easter accounts suggest that Christ comes to us in the places where we live our lives.



The journey to Emmaus begins in blindness, gloom, disillusionment and despair. It ends with the warming of the disciples' hearts, the opening of their eyes, and their return to Jerusalem. It begins with the shattering of an immature faith and ends with the disciples giving witness to a mature faith. The Emmaus story helps us understand the Lord's presence where often, we had experienced His absence. In light of the Emmaus story, all of us come to recognize that we do not walk alone. Jesus is with us. Through His word, He helps us keep on the right path. Through the breaking of bread each day, He feeds the deepest hungers of our heart and spirit. This story can also be seen as symbolic of the Eucharist. The disciples encounter Jesus and they express their disillusionment and sense of helplessness as they walk along. Jesus then breaks open the Scriptures, explains its full meaning with regard to Him and leaves their hearts on fire with evangelizing enthusiasm. He tells them about himself and His own sacrifice. Then in the breaking of the bread they recognize the living presence of the Lord.

Life is a journey and Jesus is the Way in which we are called to follow. It seems at times that we are alone but Jesus is with us at all times and in all situations. We need to be ready to recognize Him entering our lives so that we can respond appropriately to Him. Jesus wants to communicate with us and He speaks to us and is truly present in the Scriptures. They must be an integral part of every disciple's life. We pray that they may set our hearts on fire. More specifically, Jesus is present among us in all our sacramental celebrations but especially in the Eucharist. Our experience of loving and being loved by Him makes us want to share that experience with others so they too may walk the Way of Jesus. He transforms us as His messengers in the world today.

God challenges us to meet the Risen Christ who comes to us in ordinary life situations. All of the Easter accounts suggest that Christ comes to us in the places where we lead our lives. Persons like Mary, Peter, Cleopas and his companion discover Him in a personal way. The Easter story and the story of the Emmaus journey hover around us all the time. God never forces himself on us, but joins us in a walk in the garden, a visit of a friend, or while reading an email from someone we love. God speaks to us in the voices of those who are hurt, who are sorrowful, and in the generosity of those who care. We may miss Him if we do not look for Him.

May God bless you,

Monsignor Hurley

MEMORIAL BRICK

If you wish to purchase a Memorial Brick honoring a loved one or special occasion please call the Rectory or visit the St. Thomas the Apostle website at www.sainttom.org

2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

"Their Eyes Were Opened and They Recognized Him"

St. Luke recalls for us in today's Gospel that it was only when Jesus opened their eyes and minds through his explanation of the scriptures and the breaking of the bread that the two disciples on the road to Emmaus came to recognize Him.

As men and women of faith, we are like those disciples, living our lives in the real world, walking along with Jesus who is always there accompanying us, whether we recognize Him or not.

Our Lord teaches us that at the end of our mortal life, He will call us to be with Him for all eternity. He will do so because of His great love for us and because of our response to do what He has asked: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked and attend to the needs of our brothers and sisters not only in our parishes and diocese but throughout the world.

The Annual Catholic Appeal, with its theme, *"Their Eyes Were Opened and They Recognized Him"* invites each of us to open our eyes and recognize Him in those who seek our help. The Appeal offers each of us an opportunity to unite as a Catholic community and to reach out to serve others – the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed, the distressed, the unchurched, our children, and the elderly.

This weekend you are invited to participate in the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal. Please respond by pledging a sacrificial gift to this year's campaign.

LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERTORY

\$3, 190.00

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, May 1

6:00pm – Easter Novena

Tuesday, May 2

8:00am – Leslie (Bud) Bennett

Wednesday, May 3

8:00am – Easter Novena

Thursday, May 4

8:00am – Lou Beck

Saturday, May 6

5:00pm – Mass for the People

Sunday, May 7

8am – John DeBonaventura

10am – William Cox

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Marriage Moments: Favor your beloved. Call to mind a recent favor your spouse has done for you. Think of a treat you can offer your beloved today.

Parenting Pointers: Teach your child a virtue today, but do it without talking. Let your actions speak. Consider charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, or generosity.

VOCATION REFLECTION

In today's first reading, Peter says "Exalted at the right hand of God, [Jesus] received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured [the Holy Spirit] forth." In the outpouring of the Spirit, each of the baptized is called to holiness, and each is given a specific vocation for the good of the Body of Christ. Could God be calling you to serve as a priest, religious sister, deacon or religious brother? If you think so, call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations 302-573-3113; vocations@cdow.org Be sure to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations.

GOD IS ON THE AIR

You are invited to listen to the Catholic Forum podcast. A new podcast is posted every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at cdow.org/communications or search "Catholic Forum" on iTunes or iHeartRadio podcasts. Next Sunday, May 7th, tune in to hear the young people who are winners in the annual Knights of Columbus Vocations Essay Contest, present their essays. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcast links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicforum. Catholic Forum is a production of the Office of Communications of the Diocese of Wilmington.

BAPTISM

For parents who wish to have their babies baptized the next class will take place on Tuesday, May 9, at 7:00pm in the church. For further information and to register, please call the rectory office at 658-5131.

BIRTHRIGHT OF DELAWARE ROSE SALE

Birthright of Delaware is holding its Annual Rose Sale at our parish on Mother's Day weekend, May 13 & 14. Please support Birthright's pregnancy services by purchasing roses after Masses on Mother's Day. Roses cost \$2/one, \$5/three, \$18/Dozen and \$35/twenty five. Your help will truly make a difference! Thank you.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CONCERT

The enchanting music of Wilson Somers' "Springtime in Paris" will fill the air on April 30th. The concert will support the community outreach of Catholic Charities! Emmy Award winning jazz composer and pianist Wilson Somers with his jazz trio and guests, including soloist Annie Fitch, will lead us on a magical tour of "Springtime In Paris" at 7:30 pm on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at The Tatnall School's Laird Performing Arts Center. The concert is presented by Mass for the Homeless, Inc. as part of its "Music with a Mission" series. For tickets visit www.bit.ly/Springtime_In_Paris. All seats are \$20.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA BINGO

Our Lady of Fatima Designer Bag Bingo Sunday, April 30, 2017 in the Msgr. Dwyer Hall Doors open at 1pm, bingo starts at 2pm Designer Bags, Door Prizes & Desserts! Tickets \$25.00 each. Must be 18 years or older to attend.

Please contact Rachel Pompetti @ 824-4285. Check out the flyer on the website at www.olfnewcastle.com

FRANCISCAN NIGHT

Join the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia at Franciscan Night, an evening of fun, food, games of chance, and raffle baskets, to benefit the sisters' retirement fund. Saturday, May 6, 2017, 7pm-10pm, (doors open at 6:30 P.M.) Our Lady of Angels Convent, 609 S. Convent Road, Aston, PA 19014. To register or learn more about the event, go to: osfphila.org/support-us/foundation-event/ or contact Terri Gamble at (610) 558-6143.

ST. ELIZABETH PRESENTS

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the Benedictine Performing Arts Center to see the **Wizard of Oz** presented by the Cedar Street Players of St. Elizabeth School. Performances are May 12 and 13 at 7:00 P.M., and May 14 at 2:00 P.M. Tickets are available at bpac.ticketleap.com. The production is directed by Jeff Dietzler. Junior, Jordan Forman has been cast as Dorothy. Senior, Grace Dunleavy is the Cowardly Lion. Sophomore, Tyler White is the Tin Man. Junior, Michael Anderson is the Scarecrow. Junior, Rita Offutt is the Wicked Witch of the West. There is a cast of more than 30 students from the upper school and the lower school. The production employs animated projections as a high tech approach to scenery.

*2017 Annual Catholic Appeal - Their Eyes Were Opened
and They Recognized Him*
Commitment Weekend - April 29 – 30, 2017

My Dear Friends in Christ:

What a beautiful Gospel. Even though the two disciples on the road to Emmaus had known Jesus and even though they had heard reports of the empty tomb and the angel's message, they did not realize that it was Jesus who walked beside them. It was only when Jesus opened their eyes and minds through His explanation of the scriptures and the breaking of the bread that they came to recognize Him. We too come to really recognize Him in the breaking of the Bread. He is at one with us and we with Him are at one with everyone else.

Today's Gospel gives us a very comforting and strengthening message. Although we are men and women of faith, we too, oftentimes find ourselves feeling what the disciples felt: alarmed, frightened, troubled, doubtful. But Jesus says to us what He said to them, "Look at me. I am risen. I am with you, recognize me in your midst." Once again, you and I recognize Jesus' presence in the Eucharist for He is as truly present with us as He was when He broke bread with His disciples at Emmaus. We are like those disciples on the road to *Emmaus*, living our lives in the real world, walking along with Jesus who is always there accompanying us on the road, whether we recognize Him or not. Our Lord teaches us that at the end of our mortal life, He will call us to be with Him for all eternity, He will do so because of His great love for us and because of our response to do what He has asked: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked and attend to the needs of our brothers and sisters not only in our parishes and diocese but throughout the world.

My dear brothers and sisters, I know that God has bestowed on us a gift beyond price – Our Catholic faith that provides us with many blessings, but also assigns us the responsibility to share our faith with others through the caring ministry in His church and our own witness. There are many ways we can fulfill this responsibility. One very practical way is through our participation in the Annual Catholic Appeal. It is one way to share the blessings and love that God has given to each of us with those who have less. Each of us has been blessed. Without funds generated by the Annual Catholic Appeal, the diocese would find it difficult to continue, as we should, the mission Jesus entrusted to us.

Your gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal support such works as the Seton Center in Princess Anne, Maryland and Casa San Francisco in Milton, Delaware. Our vibrant Catholic schools light the minds and hearts of our young people with the Catholic faith and outstanding academics. Our Religious Education programs with so many dedicated catechists, share our faith with our children in public and private schools. Our Pro-Life Office works to promote Catholic teachings on human life issues and to encourage parishes and individuals to put those teachings into practice. Those involved in Hispanic Ministry in our diocese meet both the spiritual and real life needs of so many who were once "strangers" and are now brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. Our chaplains at hospitals, nursing homes and correctional facilities bring the face of Christ to the sick, the elderly and the imprisoned. The work of Catholic Charities – pregnancy counseling and Bayard House, Aids ministry and counseling programs – gives a face not only to the Gospel of Life but also to our Catholic social justice teaching. All this and much more is possible because of your generosity to the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Every year the Catholic Church in Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland touches the lives of more than 100,000 people through fifty different programs. As we begin the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal, with its theme, *"Their Eyes Were Opened and They Recognized Him*, I thank God for you and your goodness. With your support over the years, we have accomplished so very much – but our work will never be finished. In a few moments, you will be asked to complete a pledge card and financially support the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal. I pray that you will once again open your eyes and recognize Our Lord in those who come to us for help. May God bless you,

+ *William Francis Malooly, Bishop of Wilmington*