

Third Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2020

“And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, . . .” (Luke 24:30-31)

*“As the Savior hid the glory and grandeur of the Godhead in His assumption of our nature, so, too, in the Holy Eucharist there is no visible disclosure of Him.” (John A. Kane, *Transforming Your Life through the Eucharist*, p. 9)*

As children, many of us have played the game “Hide and Go Seek.” For those unfamiliar with this game, the object was to stay hidden long enough, that the person looking for us would be unable to find us, eventually giving up, allowing us to win the game. I am sure many of us sought out the most creative places to hide. Yet, did we ever consider the possibility of “Hiding in Plain Sight?”

This is exactly what Our Lord Jesus does. While on earth, He hid His glory, the glory of the Godhead, in the flesh of a man. Only once does He allow His glory to show through His humanity. The Gospels record this event as His Transfiguration. If you remember, He instructed His chosen apostles not to reveal this moment until after He had been raised from the dead.

In today’s Gospel passage from Saint Luke, the presence of the resurrected Jesus is again hidden from the view of two disciples. It is only when He takes the bread, says the blessing, breaks the bread, and gives it to them that their eyes are open to who He is.

In exactly the same way as at the table in Emmas, the presence of the resurrected Christ can still be viewed whenever a priest takes the bread, says the blessing, breaks the bread, and offers it to you. I wonder, if with this same action repeated from the Last Supper, to Emmas, throughout Christian History until our day, do we recognize Him under these humble appearances of bread and wine? In my heart, I would hope to say yes. In my mind, recalling my past actions, a cloud of doubt begins to arise. For if I had recognized Him, who my mind and heart should be wholly directed toward, then would I have selfishly chosen to commit those acts? Hindsight being twenty-twenty, I think each of us, through a careful examination of choices, would feel this cloud of doubt.

This leads me to propose to both myself and all listening one question: “How may we once again, like these two disciples, recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread, our Sacrament of the Eucharist?” An absurdly over simplified one-word answer - Trust. I, we, must again place our trust in the belief that every word, every action of Jesus was solely directed toward reestablishing that intimate union between God and man. We must trust that His words “This is My Body” and “This is My Blood” were not uttered for mere symbolism. They were said by the same Jesus who performed every miraculous action Sacred Scripture records Him doing. We must trust that the Eucharist is the culmination of His life’s work. It is that moment when we, through receiving Him, are joined most intimately with Him. He becomes one with us; we become one with Him.

As we are separated from each other and the Eucharist, let us pray for that same grace which burned in the hearts of the two disciples. A grace of the Holy Spirit which will allow us to see Him in the Eucharist. A grace which, once strengthened again by our reception of Him in the Eucharist, will allow us to see the world and ourselves as He currently sees us today.