

The Third Sunday of Easter

By: Fr. Greg Ames

I enjoy reading a good restaurant review; especially if it tells you more than what is on the menu. A good review will give you a sense of what the place is like. I read a review for a restaurant called MEET. While not a bad review, there are a few problems: *The interior designers failed to use a tape measure. Tables are arranged to inflict maximum discomfort on diners, and they pose insurmountable challenges to waiters. Early one evening, several staff members could be seen practicing the moves required to put a plate on the table. If you assume an normal sitting position, you cannot reach the table to eat. On a busy night, the elbow to elbow seating more or less requires you to go on the offensive with loud conversation, or submit passively to the crossfire on either side. At Meet, you can eat or you can meet. It's tough to do both.*

... while he was with them at table, he took bread ... and gave it to them ...

If you read the Gospels carefully, realize that Jesus did some of his best teaching while at a meal. We never really hear if the food was any good. But the review the Gospel writers give us is that when Jesus sits at table, there is always room, everyone gets heard, and there is no discomfort. The Risen Jesus appears to his disciples several times during a meal. We hear one of those stories today. The famous story of Emmaus tells us that the disciples meet a stranger and also eat with him. It is only when they put the two together; eat and meet, that they realize it is Jesus. In the Easter Season we are called to review our lives: a MOMENT, a MENU, and a MESSAGE.

MOMENT The story of Emmaus opens with the disciples trudging along the road. We are told they are talking and debating; other translations say they are arguing. Maybe they were looking back to good old days when Jesus was here; maybe one was saying they were not so good. Perhaps they were looking ahead, in fear of the future. What is clear is that they are not in the moment, because their preoccupation with a disappointing past and fear for their future prevent them from seeing Jesus is with them. When you review your life, it is important to relish the past and to have plans

for the future. But how present are you to the moment, each day, each encounter? That is where we meet Jesus.

MENU If you review the words and ministry of Jesus, you would see a consistent item on the menu; healing and forgiveness. When you look at the stories of Jesus that involve food, they are about healing people's hungers and leading them to forgiveness. When Peter, in the first reading, gets up to give that speech, most people must have been shocked. There must have been a few whispers; isn't this that same cowardly, lying, self centered hotheaded Peter. Peter becomes Jesus' best example that healing and forgiveness are possible. What is on the menu in your life? What keeps you busy, active, occupied each day? But do you heal anyone with your love, with your letting go, with your service? Have you forgiven anyone lately?

MESSAGE I am driving home from Harlem last Sunday night. I am traveling along the Turnpike, listening to the radio when I look to my left at the skyline. I had completely forgotten about them, those two majestic blue lights at the site of the World Trade Center. They were breathtaking. I wondered if the guy that just past me at 80 miles an hour saw them, or cared to see them. The thing of it is this: I could not wait to tell someone I saw them. I called two people from my cell phone to say guess what I am looking at. I suspect this is how the disciples felt when they met the risen Jesus. They were compelled, could not wait to tell others. The message is that Jesus is alive. That message comes to us each day, but we are distracted. These are days of war, darkness and scandal. Our vision can be blocked, we can be restrained from recognizing him. Could you just review your life this week: what, who, where are the signs that Jesus is risen? There are signs all around us, the author of the Letter of Peter tells us, and these signs are more precious than silver or gold. A bag of groceries, someone bringing a meal for comfort, the youth group packing up for a weekend retreat, laughter at my cousin's wedding reception last night. Those are the signs I saw in just one day. The challenge is whether you and I will make room in our life, that we might be the sign, the light, for someone else.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Acts 2:14-33

1 Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24:13-35

May 4,..

靈 修 生 活

復 活 節 的 信 息

鐘 志 堅 神 父

願祝你享有一個愉快的復活節！

在這個基督信仰界別裡最大的慶節，你看到甚麼？你意會到甚麼？

告訴你，我看到信仰的力量，我意會到主耶穌基督復活的伸延。

看到那麼多人在復活節前夕領受入門聖事，成為教友，成為天主的子女，教會的一分子，令我想到他們那天的選擇和決志，是經許多人的努力而產生；這些人包括了傳道員、神父、修女、朋友等。當然，上主的德能也在每人的生命中潛移默化。基督信仰就是這樣平平無奇地在你我之間，像一道流水接觸不同的人，令他們得到豐盈的生命，就是以主耶穌的人生觀、價值觀，和待人處世的態度去用自己的一生。這是我看到的基督信仰的力量。而接受入門聖事的人正是這種力量的見證。多謝許多無名氏的合作，為教會的新生命出過力。

這種新生命的出現，令我意會到主耶穌復活的伸延。有一種講法，聖誕節是慶祝已發生的事，而復活節是慶祝現今發生的事。然而，將舊我送去，選擇以主耶穌的精神和價值及態度去過生活，就是將復活----過一種新生活----活現出來，也是將復活主耶穌的生命延續的表達。新教友的出現，在信仰的角度去理解，也就是將這種伸延予以顯示。

各位朋友，復活節來得可比不上聖誕節那麼令人興奮，可是它的深層意義正是要我們在各項禮節和團體生活中去沉思去悟讀。我們感恩不單只為個人所得去感謝上主，也要學習因為他人的所得和供獻而讚美上主。

摘自「公教報」

本 週 讀 經

二 零 一 四 年 五 月 四 日

宗 2:14-33; 伯前 1:17-21; 路 24:13-35