

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 24,22-33 † 1 Peter 1:17-21 † Luke 24:13-35

Reflection by: Sister Alice McCoy, OP

I believe these are valuable readings for us to take to heart at this time in the life of our world, living through this pandemic. Reflecting on what the disciples of Jesus went through, dealing with the fall from following their great "Redeemer" with his healing power and awesome preaching, to his arrest and crucifixion, and now his disappearance from their side! They come together confused and frustrated, unable to comprehend what and why all this is happening.

I am called to think about all the times I have been overwhelmed and stressed out by the confusions and disasters of my life. These disciples are transformed and uplifted when they suddenly take time to see who is walking with them. When they stop and take the time to look and listen to the one God has sent to walk and talk with them, their eyes are suddenly opened to the "good truth" of what has happened. They are called to make the connections from what has happened to what Jesus has been teaching them they would make happen to bring to life the plan of God for all people!

Tough experiences, when we contemplate on them, can show us the way by calling us to see how God is calling us to come together to find redemption from what went wrong. Taking time to pray and search for all that is buried under the tragedies in life can lead us to see the light ahead. It can be found in the most unexpected moments.

Not being able to come together for the breaking of the bread in our churches is missed by many. We pray that soon we will be able to be back together to celebrate our faith. Coming together is important, but it is not the only way. This time is calling us to look around and become aware of how to respond to the needs of our world. I remember, years ago, our pastor always ended Sunday mass by saying to the congregation, "The mass is over, but take it with you out into the world!" I thought of this when I was running back to a local store to apologize to the cashier for having mistakenly taken two copies of the local newspaper when I only paid for one. I returned the other one. All of a sudden, all the people standing the six-foot distanced waiting line, started to laugh and clap. The man behind me elbowed me and said, "Thanks, we all needed to hear a good deed today."

Let us pray for each other that we will walk our Emmaus journey, always aware of what God will reveal to us from unexpected experiences, and be alert to what He will call us to bring into our world to redeem its needs.