

Thoughts By Sr. Jo Ann

Third Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-35

In today's Gospel, Luke presents us with the rich story of the Road to Emmaus. The story itself has two themes: The first theme centers on the road. With the second theme Luke focuses on the table.

Having witnessed the death of Jesus, the two disciples cannot believe what has happened. With his death all hope was lost. Downtrodden, discouraged, they leave Jerusalem and once again take up their journey. We know how the story continues, the stranger, the evening closure of the day.

But, let us not lose the wisdom of the road, the journey. You may have had the experience of going on a journey and in retrospect, realize much of the excitement is in the anticipation; in the journey itself. Take a moment: What were you anticipating? What did you expect to find there? Who was with you "on the road"? Were your hopes realized? What was the gift of the journey?

Now let's look at the table. On the journey, people generally walk side by side, a sense of a common goal, companionship. We build community together. But the table presents an encounter, a convergence of thought, a hope and a deepening relationship. At table, sitting face to face we "SEE" each other. In the breaking of the bread, in hearing once again the words, the disciples recognized Jesus, the Risen Christ. Their hearts, that were burning on the road, now are awakening, bursting open in their new insight that HE IS ALIVE.

He IS alive in every encounter we have. Let us check our hearts to feel the "burning" within us. Let us awaken with deeper insight to value each other. Let us look for the Christ present in each other – "at Table".