

Today we just heard the story the risen Lord appearing on the road to Emmaus: To whom did the risen Lord appear:

To two followers who appear no other place in the Bible.

In the other Easter stories Jesus appears to Peter, John, Thomas, or Mary Magdalene.

We see religious stories about St. Peter, John Thomas and Mary Magdalene on TV and in books.

We hear about their conversions. They are very public persons.

Our lack of not knowing these two people in the Emmaus story is important. ALL of us, to every single Christian, because we ALL are important to him.

And where does the story of Emmaus happen? It was not in Jerusalem where Jesus arose; they were not in the garden tomb where he was raised up. They were simply “on the road of life” on their way to some small village called Emmaus. We are not even sure where Emmaus is located today. Jesus is telling us we do not have to travel to Jerusalem or to Bethlehem to find Him. The Risen Lord can be part of our lives wherever we are.

The Risen Lord can be with us on our road of life: as a child, as a teenager as a young adult, as a parent, as a senior citizen. He can be

with us at school or at work whatever our occupation, in our home. He can be with us where we are personally: in our doubt, our joy, our grief, our worries, our distress.

Evidently, the two disciples in today's story never saw the empty tomb and didn't believe the reports they had heard that Jesus had risen. They came to a sense that he was risen by reflecting on the scriptures and their hearts began to burn within them. They finally came to recognize that he was risen and with them "in the breaking of the bread."

That is why it is so important to stay close to the Eucharist in good times and in bad, at weddings and at funerals, at Christmas and at Easter, in extraordinary times and in ordinary times. What is greater than your first communion: your second communion? And what is greater than your second communion? Your third communion.

Like the disciples, we can focus on our disappointments and problems. We miss the big picture. Through his death and resurrection he has become our way, our truth and our life. They

came to understand that pain and suffering and catastrophe as part of God's plan. Jesus showed them that it was.

In the wonderful story of Jesus' appearance at Emmaus, he shows the two disciples, and us, where we can find him: "in the breaking of the bread."

(most of this homily is taken from the book, Captured Fire by S. Joseph Krempa, pp. 46-48)