

~ Our Pastor's Message ~

Greetings on
Tuesday, April 22.

May this message find you safe and assured that you are in the care of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Today is a feast day of Our Lady, the patroness of the Society of Jesus. In a special way, I ask you to pray with me for vocations to the Society and that all our young men in formation will persevere in their vocation. We need more priests and the Society needs more Jesuits. Thank you for your prayers.

Today I would like to talk about how we are accustomed to frequent reception of Holy Communion, daily if we choose. Today we are asked, during this very unusual event with the pandemic threat to the health of the world, not to congregate and, for health reasons+ , reception of the Eucharist is not possible. We have rightly limited gatherings of more than five or so people and that has closed our churches for the celebration of the Eucharist. Instead we have been asked to turn to spiritual communion. Unfortunately, we did not learn much about this in our catechism classes and so, for most of us, our understanding of this concept is limited to our intuition about its meaning.

Archbishop Wester forwarded to all priests a good explanation of the concept behind a spiritual communion. And I would like to share with you a brief summary of how we might make a spiritual communion. This is taken from an article in *OUR SUNDAY VISITOR* by Michael R. Heinlein from March 14, 2020. "If you do not receive (Holy Communion) sacramentally, receive it spiritually by doing the following: conceive a real desire to be united to Jesus Christ by acknowledging the need you have to love His life; arouse yourself to perfect contrition for all your sins, past and present, by considering the infinite goodness and sanctity of God; receive Jesus Christ in spirit in your inmost soul, entreating Him to give you the grace to live entirely for Him, since you can live only by him; imitate Zacchaeus in his good resolutions and thank our Lord that you have been able to hear Holy Mass, and make a spiritual Communion; offer in thanksgiving a special act of homage, a sacrifice, an act of virtue, and beg the blessing of Jesus Christ upon yourself and all your relatives and friends."

I hope that these steps for preparing to spiritually receive Holy Communion are helpful. No doubt any of you seeking to join yourselves more intimately with our Lord know how to do that already. This outline is meant simply to boost your confidence that you are already on the right track.

~ Continued in next column

Let us go forward with joy and thankfulness in our hearts knowing that our God who is good all the time, all the time God is good and is with us. We will continue to remember you in our 12:10pm daily Eucharist and ask you all stay safe in your homes for a while longer until we can once again meet at the table of our Lord.

Peace and God's Blessing,

Warren J. Broussard, SJ
Fr. Warren J. Broussard, SJ, Pastor



SUNDAY CONNECTION FROM LOYOLA PRESS
3rd Sunday of Easter ~ April 26 ~

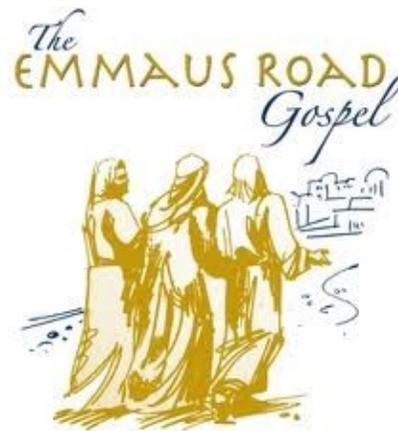
First Reading: Acts 2: 14, 22-33: Peter and the apostles announce that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 16: 1-2, 5, 7-11
God will show us the path of life.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1: 17-21
You were saved by Christ's sacrifice.

Gospel Reading: Luke 24: 13-35; Jesus appears to two disciples who are walking to Emmaus.

Background on the Gospel Reading: On most Sundays during the Easter season in Cycle A, our Gospel is taken from the Gospel of John. This week's Gospel, however, is



taken from the Gospel of Luke. As in last week's Gospel, today's Gospel shows us how the first community of disciples came to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. In these stories we gain insight into how the community of the Church came to be formed.

When we read today's Gospel, we may be surprised to learn that these friends of Jesus could walk and converse with him at some length yet not recognize him. Again we discover that the risen Jesus is not always easily recognized. Cleopas and the other disciple walk with a person whom they believe to be a stranger; only later do they discover that the stranger is Jesus. We learn that the first community met and recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread, just as we meet Jesus in the Eucharist.

We can imagine the feelings of the two disciples in today's reading. They are leaving their community in Jerusalem. Their friend Jesus has been crucified. Their hope is gone.

~Continued on the next page.

SUNDAY CONNECTION FROM LOYOLA PRESS

The 3rd Sunday of Easter ~ April 26 ~ continued

They are trying to make sense of what has occurred, so that they can put the experience behind them.

Jesus himself approaches the two men, but they take him for a stranger. Jesus asks them what they are discussing. He invites them to share their experience and interpretation of the events surrounding his crucifixion and death. When the two disciples have done so, Jesus offers his own interpretation of his crucifixion and resurrection, citing Jewish Scripture. In that encounter we find the model for our Liturgy of the Word—what we do each time we gather as a community for the Eucharist. We reflect upon our life experiences and interpret them in light of Scripture. We gather together to break open the Word of God.

In the next part of the story, we find a model for our Liturgy of the Eucharist. The disciples invite the stranger (Jesus) to stay with them. During the meal in which they share in the breaking of the bread, the disciples' eyes are opened; they recognize the stranger as Jesus. In the Eucharist too we share in the breaking of the bread and discover Jesus in our midst. Just as the disciples returned to Jerusalem to recount their experience to the other disciples, we too are sent from our Eucharistic gathering. Our experience of Jesus in the Eucharist compels us to share the story with others.

FAMILY CONNECTION FROM LOYOLA PRESS

The 3rd Sunday of Easter ~ April 26 ~

Families, as the domestic church, have the opportunity to make the family meal a time of prayerful encounter with one another and with Jesus. At a family meal we share our experiences of the day and connect them with the experiences of others in the family. We can also enjoy the meal as an opportunity to reflect upon our family life in light of Scripture. At their best, our family meals can connect us to Jesus too.

Choose a family meal this week to share one another's experiences of the week in a special way. Perhaps invite family members to plan and prepare the meal together. Begin the meal by reading today's Gospel, Luke 24:13-35. As you eat, talk together about how the disciples discussed their experiences in Jerusalem and how they came to understand them differently when Jesus interpreted those events in the light of Scripture. Then invite each family member to share the things that are going on in his or her life. Consider what Jesus might say to each person if he were sitting at your dinner table. Conclude with a special prayer after your dinner. Pray a prayer of blessing for each family member, asking that Jesus continue to be present in each person's life, helping each one to be a better follower of Jesus. Conclude with a Sign of Peace.

Online Resources:

[America Magazine](#) | [The Jesuit Review](#)

Where you can live-stream Jesuit Masses every day of the week: <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/24/here-are-jesuit-parishes-and-ministries-live-streaming-mass-every-day-week>

The Apostleship of Prayer

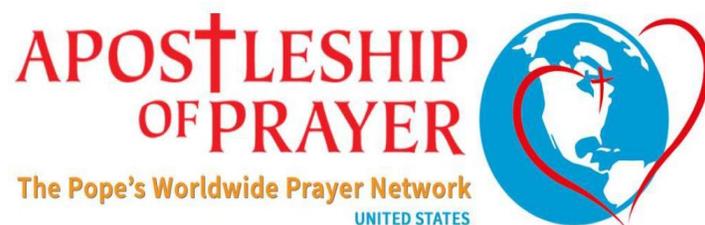
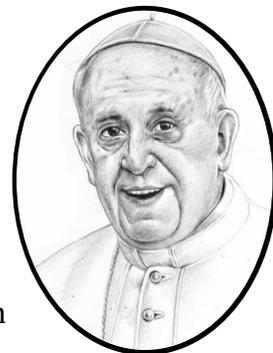
Apostles of Prayer offer themselves to God each day for the good of the world, the Church, one another, and the Holy Father's Intentions. Begin with A Daily Offering:

O Jesus,
through the Immaculate Heart
of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works,
joys, and sufferings of this day
in unity with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
throughout the world.
I offer them for all the intentions
of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls,
reparation for sins,
and the reunion of all Christians.
I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and
all the Apostles of Prayer,
and in particular for those
recommended
by our Holy Father this month.
~ Amen ~

Then, pray with the Pope for his
intention each month:

MAY 2019: FOR DEACONS

We pray that deacons, faithful in
their service to the Word and
the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the
entire Church.



The mission of the Society of Jesus today is the service of faith, of which the promotion of justice is an absolute requirement. For reconciliation with God demands the reconciliation of people with one another.