

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.
(Jesus Appeared to Two Men on the Way to Emmaus)

Dearly beloved:

Next Sunday, May 14, is the Fourth Sunday after Easter. The Holy Gospel reading for this Sunday is about the appearance of the risen Jesus Christ to two of his followers on their way to Emmaus. According to the Bible, it was late afternoon on Easter Sunday and two followers of Jesus were walking on the way back to Emmaus from Jerusalem after Passover. While on their way, they were talking about the events that had happened concerning the suffering and death of the Saviour. They were sad, disappointed and confused over the empty tomb and resurrection stories. Jesus also joined them in their conversation but they were kept from recognizing Him. Jesus wanted to hear what they thought of Him before speaking. They said that He was a prophet, a spokesman from God and His words were very powerful; they also thought He was going to be the One Who was going to redeem Israel.

After walking for about seven miles and approaching Emmaus, the two men offered Jesus to have food and to stay with them because it was getting late. Jesus stayed with them and at the dining table, He took the bread, blessed, broke it, and gave to them and their eyes were opened and recognized Him but He vanished out of their sight. They did not recognize the risen Jesus until He had broken bread for them. This was the fourth appearance of the resurrected Christ. They were so excited and walked all the way back to Jerusalem at the same hour despite the lateness of the hour to find the eleven disciples. When they got there, they were happy and relieved to find that Jesus had appeared to the other disciples also.

According to the Jewish law, women were second-class citizens and their testimony considered invalid in court. Even a single testimony by a man was considered insufficient. This may be the reason why St. Luke found it necessary to record two men meeting the risen Lord Jesus.

Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of our heart to recognize your presence with us and to understand the truth of your word”.

Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.

Bible readings for Sunday, May 14th, 2006.
(Fourth Sunday after Easter)

Before Holy Qurbana:

Exodus	-	34: 4-12
Micah	-	4: 1-7
Zachariah	-	8: 4-9
Isaiah	-	37: 8-17

Holy Qurbana

General Epistles:	I John	-	5: 13-21
Epistles of St. Paul:	Hebrews	-	11: 3-6
Holy Gospel:	St. Luke	-	24: 13-35

Next Sunday, May 21st is Fifth Sunday After Easter.

With prayers,
Thomas Alex