

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 3rd SUNDAY EASTER YEAR A.2023:

JESUS THE STRANGER:

In the first reading(Act 2:14,22-33),we hear Peter flagged by the eleven on the Pentecost giving a very powerful calculated sermon on the person of Jesus.Remember a while ago the same Peter had denied ever known Him three times!what a transformation,this is the result of power of resurrection.

Luke in the gospel (Lk.24:13-35) gives us a Beautiful story of the Risen Lord **reaching out to two of his disciples who had given up hope and were on their way most likely going to their homes!** These disciples **Don't appear anywhere else in the scripture, we don't hear about them before or after this incident!**

They were involved in discussing **unjust way** Jesus was judged and **brutally executed**.They were **disappointed,discouraged,despaired , their faith was shattered and felt they had lost everything**.Dont forget The fact that they had left their properties, families,friends,Neighbour's to follow this Man Jesus and all is gone hence they were **downcast**.imagin what was going on in their minds.They were not convinced with what was going on circulation about the resurrection of Jesus, simply **their dreams were gone**.

In the process of their deep discussion they were **joined by a stranger who seems to be interested** in what they were talking about.Cleopas one of the disciple took charge of explaining to the stranger the events of life of Jesus after being so **surprised** if the stranger doesn't read the Jerusalem daily!The stranger seems to be a good listener and understanding their flight and participated in the discussion actually telling more in the scripture which was relieving to the two **get away disciples of their tensions**.They realized the evening was with them hence **invited the stranger for a meal and an evening over**.It is during this meal that they recognized **something they were familiar** with in the stranger,**He took bread,said a blessing,broke it and gave each a piece(Lk.24:30)**.Their eyes were **opened but the stranger had taken off**.

What a good story for us in our present time when we are faced with **stress,depressions**,challenges from all sides,**political,financial,social spiritual,healthy,family,our parents,spouses,children!** We have invested so much effort and time and emotions but we end up in disappointments.we are on that Emmaus nameless road trying to locate and map ourselves again.

One given factor is that our risen Lord can always **trace and join us wherever we are.**we don't need to be in great churches, spiritual centers or Cathedral,He will reach us where we are in our **environment,in stress despair,doubts,grief,joy, worry,in distress** Christ will reach us in that nameless road of the emmaus of our life,wherever we are and in whatever age we are **child,youth,young adult senior citizen or whatever occupation, rank or work.**Are you ready to welcome him like the two disciples knowing the fact that **evening is closing by.stay with us,for night comes quickly(Lk.24:29)** Don't we need to echo those words to Jesus always.We need his company his companionship always.

Emmaus episode is teaching us that the Lord is **present IN word and more specifically in the BREAKING OF BREAD(EUCHARIST).**That is how the two recognized him.