

Easter Sunday (C)

April 4, 2010

Who's ever lost anything?

Car keys, watch, cell phone, wallet, purse, etc....

Now, what did you do...how did you go about finding it?

Maybe we've asked for help from someone else.

Maybe we've retraced our steps / gone over the places we've been in order to try to find it.

Maybe we've simply gave up and cut our losses.

I think Pastors of Parishes are notorious for loosing things.

I've had the pleasure of working with many priests who are pastors over the past 5-6 years and they all seem to have the knack of "misplacing items."

One pastor in particular...in order to protect his identity...we'll call him Fr. Dave N....or rather, Fr. D. Nuss..."misplaces" things all the time – car keys, cell phone, clothes, and more.

And usually, I'll have to be the one to help him find his lost item.

I can remember one particular time, recently, when the pastor in question lost his suit coat three times in one day.

And each time he lost it, I believe I was the one who would say to him, "It's where you put it down, in your office."

And of course, he would go into his office and find it right there on the back of his chair.

Now, I'm not great at not losing things either.

Recently, I lost my rosary and it took a friendly sacristan to tell me where to look in order to find it.

And of course, as soon as I looked where she told me to, which just happened to be in plain sight, I immediately found it.

Sometimes, we need people to help us find what's lost.

And sometimes, what we're looking for is right in front of us and has been all along.

The two disciples on the way to Emmaus lost something very special to them...or it seemed to have been lost.

For them, Jesus was gone.

Now, for them, Jesus was supposed to be the "one to redeem Israel."

He was the one who would set free God's chosen people and bring salvation to them.

And when he died on the cross, a lot of people's hopes and dreams of all this coming true died along with him.

So, we have two disciples, whose hopes and dreams were dashed by the death of their leader, Jesus Christ, leaving Jerusalem because they think that all is lost and there's no point in continuing on a path they think is dead.

Why they do this is beyond me.

I mean, they admit themselves that women from their group saw a vision of angels at the tomb that Jesus was buried announcing that he was alive.

In addition, other disciples in their group went to the tomb to verify this and came back with the same message that the women received.

So, why didn't these two disciples believe the women and the other disciples that Jesus was alive and has risen from the dead?

It doesn't make sense...unless they just needed a little help.

And this is exactly what Jesus gives them...a little help to help them see and believe that he has indeed been raised from the dead and that he is alive!

He was with them for so long on the road to Emmaus and was right under their noses the whole time.

Yet, they were not able to see him because their grief was so great.

How often have we been blinded by grief?

How often have we been unable to see the goodness that is right in front of us because of a death of a loved one...the loss of a job...the separation of parents...the breakup of friends...the grief that is unfortunately natural to everyday life?

Now, what do we do with this grief?

Do we let it eat away at us...tearing us apart from the inside?

Or, do we give it over to Christ so that we may be able to see the goodness that he promises to us?

Once the disciples decided to look up upon recognizing some familiar words from Jesus, they immediately saw the goodness that has been with them the entire journey.

This goes to show that Jesus, the Son of God, constantly – in life, death, and resurrection – lowers himself to be one with us on our level so that we may recognize the goodness that he promises.

And so, our lesson then is this:

In life, we will lose things here and there – little, insignificant things as well as big, important things and people. When we lose these things, it's always good to ask for help...another pair of eyes can't hurt after all...especially in moments of extreme grief and sadness. In asking for help, we are to recognize that in addition to family and friends, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is with us, has always been with us, and will always be with us. This is possible because he has risen from the dead and thus, broken the chains of sin and death forever. May we pray to recognize him and rely on his presence in our journeys. And may this give us the grace and the strength to believe without always having to have to see.