

## Praying the Scriptures

### Third Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2011

Praying the scriptures is about bringing the Word into your heart. It moves and has its being in you. The Word of God comes alive. You read the Word repeatedly not to build up the number of times that you can read. It is not about decoding the Word. It is about encoding. Praying the scriptures is about bringing meaning to the Word. The meaning of the scripture as it aligns to your life. You are Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus. You are there listening to Jesus on the road. Your heart is warmed as he explains to you the connections of His life to yours. You listen to the scripture one time and you hear a word or phrase like “hearts burning”. Ponder the words, hear yourself say, “stay with us for it is nearly evening.” We welcome Jesus each time we open our hearts to his Word. We are transformed not by gaining lots of information but by the spirit of Jesus. We listen to the word like you were listening to the travelers telling the story to you. Accept his resurrection as you do those in your life who accept. Let your praying the scriptures result in your welcoming others as you would welcome Christ himself. When we take the scripture like this and you welcome the stranger or feed the hungry, we open our hearts to Christ.

#### Scripture

- God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. (Acts 2:32)
- You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, (Psalm 16:11)
- Realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct ... so that your faith and hope are in God. (1 Peter 1:18,21)
- Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us. (Luke 24:32)

#### Reflection

How does the Jesus rising change the disciples traveling to Emmaus?

What grace from Christ’s rising has changed your direction?

Peter witnessed to what Jesus has done. What can I do to witness today?

What do we see in the “breaking of the bread?” Do we open our hearts to the stranger?

Many men in the past have been loved with extreme intensity – Socrates by his disciples, Julius Caesar by his legionnaires, Napoleon by his soldiers. But today these men belong irrevocably to the past; not a heart beats at their memory. There is no one who would give their life or even their possessions for them even though their ideals are still being advocated. And when their ideals are opposed, no one ever thinks of cursing Socrates or Julius Caesar or Napoleon, because their personalities no longer have any influence; they are bygone. But not Jesus; Jesus is still loved and still cursed; men still renounce their possessions and even their lives both for love of him and out of hatred for him. No living being is as alive as Jesus.