

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“While He was with them at table, He took bread, said the blessing, broke it and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.”

Luke 24: 29

Even for those who knew Jesus, walked with him, were sent forth two by two because of Him, who witnessed his miracles, his cures, his raising from the dead, his calming of storms and feeding the multitude—even for them when he appeared to them after his resurrection they did not recognize him immediately. He was the same person. But he was a changed person. Resurrection does that. It changed him. And it is to change us too.

This story at the end of Saint Luke’s gospel is wonderfully rich in detail and insight but also in deep revelation of the heart of God and the ways of God which are not our ways. If it is possible for those who knew Him so well and so intimately not to recognize Him right away when He is with them, is it really so surprising that when he draws near to us in our lives that we do not recognize Him right away either?

So often it is after the fact that we realize that there has been a special moment that has just transpired. We sense that the Lord has drawn close to us and entered into the moment with us and become involved with our lives. “Oh, that’s what that was!” we say. It is like the Beloved Disciple in the fishing boat with six of the other apostles on the Sea of Galilee weeks after the resurrection when he recognizes Jesus calling out to them from the shore of the sea. “It’s the Lord!” he says to Peter. And Peter swims ashore (through the waters he comes to encounter Jesus) to meet his Lord. But even if it is afterwards that is enough for us to get the message. My friends, Our Lord comes to us at times. And sometimes in our meals we come to recognize his presence. There is a moment when we see, we grasp, when there is a truth or a reality that dawns on us. The Lord has promised to reveal himself to those who pray—but not necessarily while they are at prayer. Look for him at other times. Especially when we break bread. Then? Yes. Especially then. The question of the week.