

Faith on Emmaus Road

Happy Easter!
You'll greet many people that way during this holy season.

We sincerely wish each of our readers a blessed and happy Easter too.

It is a greeting that was born in the joy of the first Easter day, close to 2000 years ago.

And the first to know that joy were two of the Lord's disciples who were trudging along a dusty road between Jerusalem and the little village of Emmaus.

It is a story that is not well enough known and yet it tells of the first two people who knew for sure that the Saviour had indeed risen from the dead. The apostles, the holy women and other disciples had, it is true, been to the tomb early Easter morning and found it empty, but they had to wait for the experience the two disciples first had on the Emmaus road.

St. Luke narrates the episode in the 24th chapter of his Gospel —

As they went they were in deep conversation about everything that had happened. While they were absorbed in their serious talk and discussion Jesus himself approached and walked along with them, but something prevented them from recognizing him. Then he spoke to them,

"What is all this discussion that you are having on your walk?"

They stopped, their faces drawn with misery, and the one called Cleopas replied,

"You must be the only stranger in Jerusalem who hasn't heard all the things that have happened there recently!"

"What things?" asked Jesus.

"Oh, all about Jesus, from Nazareth. There was a man a prophet strong in what he did and what he said, in God's eyes as well as the people's. Haven't you heard how our chief priests and rulers handed him over for execution, and had him crucified? But we were hoping he was the one who was to come and set Israel free . . .

"Yes, and as if that were not enough, it's getting on for three days since all this happened; and some of our womenfolk have disturbed us profoundly. For they went to the tomb at dawn, and then when they couldn't find his body they said that they had had a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of our people went straight off to the tomb and found things just as the women had described them — but they didn't see him!"

Then he himself spoke to them: "Aren't you failing to understand, and slow to believe in all that the prophets have said? Was it not inevitable that Christ should suffer like that and so find his glory?"

Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them everything in the scriptures that referred to himself.

They were now approaching the village to which they were going. He gave the impression that he meant to go on farther, but they stopped him with the words,

"Do stay with us. It is nearly evening, and soon the day will be over."

So he went indoors to stay with them. Then it happened: While he was sitting at table with them he took the loaf, gave thanks, broke it and passed it to them. Their eyes opened wide and they knew him! But he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other,

"Weren't our hearts glowing while he was with us on the road, and when he made the scriptures so plain to us?"

That is the way St. Luke described as "one of the most finished and most significant stories to be found in any language" — according to Jesuit Father Ferdinand Prat in his superb two volume work "Jesus Christ — His Life, His Teaching, and His Work."

Our hearts too glow a bit warmer as we hear, year after year, the story of God's great love for us, a love which brought him to earth and to death for our redemption, a love which even death could not destroy.

Cynics may pose such questions as, "If the Roman soldiers had posted a road-block between Jerusalem and Emmaus, how many men would they have chalked down when they reported passage of this group — two or three?"

St. Luke is the same author who tells so vividly the story of the Saviour's birth with the vision of angels over the fields at Bethlehem.

At both the beginning and the end of his Gospel, he brings us face to face with the basic question of Christianity — is it something anybody can see quite in the same way as anybody can see any ordinary object like a tree or a house or a sheet of paper . . . or are we involved here instead with ordinary, a question of being something utterly — out of the able to "see" something other



people just don't see — and that's why Easter can be a feast of joy and hope for us also because, as the Lord told Thomas the apostle, "Happy are those who have never seen me and yet have believed!"

Our faith, then, determines our happiness. May both be deep and true!

—Father Henry A. Atwell

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'Oil of

Bishop Sheen presided first Holy Week rites in own cathedral this past week with capacity congregation each service from Palm day to Easter Sunday.

Holy Thursday at noon celebrated the "Christ and blessed the holy oils by priests throughout the case for baptisms and sick

Updating our Seminaries — See Page 3



Members of St. of Greece had a unique church.

They packed each Easter prayers with ultra-modern structure

Monsignor Robert pleased with the reaction

Easter was also and boys choir to more than competent for the noted worldwide for

The church seats circle around the altar against the back indicate the throne of home.

Bishops At Legio

Legion of Mary members will renew their April.

Bishop Sheen will Andrew's Church, Rochester

Bishop Kearney will for Auburn Curia Legion Victor, Sunday, April

Legion of Mary projects. Auxiliary members their prayers.

IF YOU MOVE... let us know about we can keep your coming to you on Phone or mail us notice your change of address Include your old address and new address and name of your parish.