

3rd Sunday Easter Year A
Luke 24:13-35
May 8, 2011

Our gospel reading today is the well known story of the road to Emmaus. I imagine it to be a well traveled stretch from Jerusalem that took two hours or so to walk.

Cleopas, walking with his family or friends, talking and sharing whatever came to mind, could probably have made this trip with their eyes closed.

But today, the third day since the crucifixion of Jesus the Nazarene, their mood was downcast as Luke tells us. Those 7 miles seemed to be more like 70 now that their hopes were dashed that He would be the one to redeem the people of Israel.

These two disciples in this story along with the eleven Apostles and the other followers of Jesus were disheartened because they had seen the Teacher, the Rabbi, the One they had come to know as God's Son, taken away and brutally murdered. They didn't know just yet that, on this Sunday morning their Lord would appear to them as He promised.

The Apostles along with a few other chosen followers are to be enlightened and educated by Jesus, Himself for the next 50 days as preparation for Pentecost.

What a gratifying and awesome feeling to be chosen by God for this responsibility. For those followers not designated by God to see the Risen Lord, I can understand their feeling of great loss being without Jesus.

I can relate to their grief because this is the first Mother's Day without my mother. I know that I'm not the only one here that can say that so my feelings are for you also.

The bright side of all this is, as my mother used to call "the silver lining in every dark cloud" is that we know that our mother, or mother-figure is sitting right now at the right hand of our heavenly Father.

Because of Jesus' death and Resurrection, we also know that we will be joining them for an eternity of happiness and love. Keep this happy thought front and center of all the memories that come to you today.

Here is a mother's day story for you:

Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.

The first said, "I built a big house for our mother. The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver."

The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat. You remember how Mom enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can't see very well. I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it."

Soon thereafter, Mom sent out her letters of thanks:

"Milton," she wrote one son, "the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house."

"Gerald," she wrote to another, "I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home, so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!"

"Dearest Donald," she wrote to her third son, "you have the good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken was delicious."

The other day, I visited Fr. Lavelle. I told him that I am preaching on Mother's Day and he told me the story that we have heard over the years: "My mom said that there is hell on earth; and I would always say, "Why are you looking at me when you say that?"

Fr. Lavelle also made a very profound statement that I will always remember: "All mothers went to the same school!" My mom had a long list of "mom-isms" that she touted from time to time and I believe that all the other moms had the same list. I guess all moms did go to the same school.

I would like to share a few thoughts, and you may have some to add, of just how Christ-like mothers are. What do you think about these following comparisons:

Truthful:	Mom: Always saying what we need to hear, instead of just what we want to hear. Jesus: I AM THE TRUTH
Emotional:	Mom: Feels the pain of her little child that has skinned a knee. Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus
Selfless:	Mom: Sacrifices all her personal wants and needs to provide for us. J: Gave His life so that we could be saved.
Patient:	Mom: As we push her buttons to try to find her boiling point. Jesus: While teaching the disciples who He was and how their lives would change
All Knowing:	Mom: "Eyes in the back of her head" Jesus: knows all our sins and He knows when we are truly sorry for being in sin

Nurturing: M: Good meals, tasty food, great desserts
Jesus: His Body and Blood for our
spiritual health

Loving: The sum of all that a mother is
The sum of all the Son of God is.

Through the intercession of the perfect mother, Mary
the mother of Jesus our Lord, may God continue to bless all
mothers with His eternal love.