

- What would have shocked the disciples who encountered the Risen Jesus more than his appearance, was Jesus risen in his *body*.
- Jesus went out of his way to prove that his risen body was real – *touch me, see my wounds, give me something to eat*.
- Our Lord's resurrected body means God hasn't given up creation, He is still literally wearing it.
- Often our train of thought is: *the world is so bad and corrupt that we have given up on it and so should God*.
- But that fails to recall two important biblical passages: in Genesis God said that all of creation was good and the Prophet Jeremiah compared God to a potter and us to clay, stating, "*Whenever the vessel of clay he was making turned out badly in his hand, he tried again, making another vessel of whatever sort he pleased.*"
- Our God hasn't given up on us, so why have we given up on evangelizing others and bringing them to Jesus?
- Next weekend the children of our two parishes are making their First Holy Communion and they have something to teach us adults about Holy Communion.
- Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist is not there so we can keep Him to our self, He is present so we can find those disciples traveling away from the joys of the Resurrection like the Emmaus disciples were.
- The Risen Lord went after them and evangelized them, and so should we.
- Here is the pattern of evangelization found in the famous Emmaus story.
- **First, we must go after the fallen away.**
- Our tendency is to play it safe from a distance.
- We might pray for a lost soul, which is a good start, or worse sometimes we write them off.
- Jesus, though, joined the company of Cleopas and the other disciple that were walking to Emmaus and leaving behind Jerusalem, the very site of the Last Supper and first Mass, crucifixion, Resurrection, and eventual coming of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus walked alongside them and heard their complaints of how being a disciple of Jesus for the past three years was a disappointment.
- Jesus was never defensive, but eventually enlightened them, which leads to the second step of evangelization.
- **Second, we must break open the pattern of Scripture for others.**
- The reason we don't share a word of encouragement or teach others the real interpretation of the scriptures when someone has no hope or an erroneous interpretation, is that we don't know it ourselves.
- These two downcast disciples on the road to Emmaus had the facts about prophecies concerning Jesus, but the wrong interpretation.
- So Jesus corrected them saying, "*Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?*"
- Then Jesus did a walking bible study and their hearts began to burn within them.
- When the truths of scripture make sense, then our path in life becomes illumined and we want more of Jesus, which leads to step three.

- **Third, we must lead people to Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist.**
- Our Gospel opens with the two disciples from the Road to Emmaus returning to Jerusalem on the evening of Easter.
- They find the Apostles in the Upper Room where Our Lord gave them their First Communion only seventy-two hours earlier.
- Cleopas and the other disciple told their story of how they met the Risen Christ in the breaking of the bread, which is the Eucharist.
- St. John Chrysostom, speaking of the Eucharist, asked, *"How many of you say: I should like to see His face, His garments, His shoes. You do see Him, you touch Him, you eat Him. He gives Himself to you, not only that you may see Him, but also to be your food and nourishment."*
- The ultimate way in which we meet Jesus is not simply in prayer and scripture, but in the gift of the Eucharist.
- When Jesus first celebrated Mass at the Last Supper with his Apostles, he took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them saying, *"This is my body."*
- In other words, *"This is me!"*
- When we receive Jesus's body, blood, soul and divinity, that is, his totality, into our body, the pattern of evangelization must begin again.

- That's why Jesus said at the end of the first Mass, *"Do this in memory of me."*
- We cannot remember the Risen Jesus if we fail to share the Risen Jesus through evangelization.
- Love means we care what happens to another soul, and leading them to Jesus is the highest form of love.
- For Jesus said, *"I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live forever ..."*