

# **The Call to Witness / Pray / Build a Church in Our Own Home**

## **The Easter Vigil**

What was the most important thing that happened for you at the Easter Vigil?

Consider the following:

- How did the various symbols and events speak to you?
  - Fire / darkness
  - Paschal candle – light of the World
  - Listening to the Word
  - Renewing your Baptismal promises
  - Entry into full communion
  - Confirmation
  - Sharing fully in the Eucharist
- Being part of the Community in a new way
- Being called to live a new life

## Mystagogy

Mystagogy is a time when the neophytes are: "...introduced to a fuller and more effective understanding of mysteries through the Gospel message they have learned and above all through their experience of the Sacraments they have received. For they have truly been renewed in mind, tasted more deeply the sweetness of God's Word, received the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and grown to know the goodness of the Lord."

[RCIA \(USA\) 245](#)

"This is a time for the community and the neophytes together to grow in deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery and making it part of their lives through:

- Meditation on the Gospel
- Sharing in the Eucharist
- Doing works of Charity"

[RCIA \(USA\) 244](#)

## The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13 – 35)

<sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup>"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup>but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

<sup>25</sup>He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

<sup>33</sup>They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup>and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup>Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

## Reflection on the Reading:

The structure of the story is similar to that of the Mass:

- Bringing our hopes and disappointments
- Listening to the stories of God's mercy {Reading and Gospel}
- Remembering what Jesus did and said
- Breaking and sharing of the food of life
- Being sent to love and serve the Lord

## Jesus Appears to the Disciples (Luke 24:36 – 47)

<sup>36</sup>While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

<sup>37</sup>They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

<sup>40</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup>And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate it in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup>He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

### Reflection on the Reading:

The structure of the story in many ways parallels the shape of the Eucharist:

- The disciples gathered, sharing stories of what had happened to them on the road to Emmaus, meeting with the Risen Lord and recognising him
- Appearance and greeting – with a mixture of reactions – terrified, startled, full of doubt, incredulous, overjoyed yet wondering
- Signs of the Real Presence of Jesus and not just a ghost – sharing a meal
- Instruction through an explanation of scripture
- A call to mission – to preach to all nations; a going forth to preach the Good News

***Deacon or Priest:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

***All:* Thanks be to God!**

Why do we go to Mass, and what difference does it make in our lives? The ultimate goal of learning more about the Mass is not just to feed ourselves, but to feed others, to live as Christ lived, strengthened by our gathering week after week. We receive the Body of Christ, we become the Body of Christ, and we live that new life out in the world.

Taken from the website of Holy Trinity Church, Washington D.C., *September 9/10 – First Liturgical Catechesis at All Masses:*

[http://www.holytrinitydc.org/Liturgy/yop/2006\\_2007\\_yop/themes.htm](http://www.holytrinitydc.org/Liturgy/yop/2006_2007_yop/themes.htm)