



WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

The other day I met a parishioner who visited his friend's church for Easter. He was excited about the sermon. The message was that Easter is the greatest comeback in all of history! How true! I want you to think about that and realize what that means for you individually and personally. In particular, I want you to think about this through the lens of today's Gospel, the beautiful story of two unnamed disciples who encountered the risen Jesus as they were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a distance of seven miles. It's not just that they met Jesus, which was wonderful. It's not just that they realized that He had risen, which was wonderful. It's what that did to them, and what that can mean for us. Those two disciples on the road to Emmaus are me and you on our journey of life. What were they doing? They were talking about the events that had just taken place, the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. In other words, they were talking about what everyone else was talking about. Again, that's me and you. What are we talking about? What is everyone talking about? We're talking about Iran and the Middle East. We're talking about gas prices. We're talking about Ukraine. We're talking about division and hatred. We're talking about the Artemis II lunar mission. We're talking about medical test results. We're talking about someone we know who died. Yes, we're talking about life.

As we do so, again, we are like those two disciples. How so? Well, what was their mood? They were confused, discouraged, depressed, lost. It is in the midst of their discussion and turmoil that Jesus appears. That changes everything! He explains to them God's plan. He explains to them God's presence. He explains to them His victory. Then, it happens. He reveals Himself to them. In the Breaking of the Bread, in the Eucharist, they meet Him.

What happens next? Their outlook, their mood, their attitude changes, 180 degrees. How do we know that? Scripture tells us: "Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" What happened next? They went back to Jerusalem, changed men. They went back with a different attitude to joyfully share good news!

How about you? What does Easter mean for you? There are many who celebrate Easter, talking about all the things that everyone else does. However, Easter doesn't change them. They just keep walking on towards Emmaus, just keep going in the same direction, defeated, lost, depressed, sad, anxious and confused.

It doesn't have to be that way. You don't have to keep living the same way you have been. The world will continue as it always has, but we don't have to let it defeat and discourage us. We can be changed, and help change the world. The greatest comeback in all of history can also be our comeback from living only an ordinary life!

"So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, 'The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!' Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread." (Luke 24:33-35)