



Our Lady of Peace Roman Catholic Church

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WHAT ARE WE DISCUSSING DURING THESE COVID-19 TIMES?

On the Road to Emmaus, two of the disciples were travelling back to their village, Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "**What are you discussing together as you walk along?**" (Luke 24:13-35). We too could ask ourselves, "what are we discussing in this period of covid-19? Are we absorbed with its anxieties and fears that we forget about the Resurrection of the Lord?"

Truly, Covid-19 has been devastating. Jesus' crucifixion was a devastating blow to the disciples. Their hopes were dashed and they started to return back to the businesses in which they were engaged before Jesus called them to follow him. Peter said he was going back to his fishing trade and the rest disciples said, "We'll go with you." (John 21:3). The two who didn't go with Peter, Cleopas and his companion chose to return home to Emmaus. Jesus appeared and joined them as they journeyed. They told the stranger-Jesus how devastated they were; They said; "but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel" (Luke 24:21).

We too probably have caught ourselves discussing the toxic and devastating anxiety that covid-19 is causing. The kind of anxiety which is genuine but is a mixture of fear of the unknown and lack of trust in God. Through Divine Mercy, we are invited to always say: **Jesus I Trust in You.** We can allow ourselves be worried like Paul who said; "And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches" (2 Corinthians 11:28). But in times of anxiety and fear, we could look to the story of the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). In the story, Jesus listens to the two disciples' descent into sadness and their description of all that has happened in these past days. And Jesus reassured them; "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight (Luke 24:30-31). Reassurance comes when we connect with Jesus.

No matter what covid-19 fears and anxieties we have, let us not lose **Trust** in God especially in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is a gift from God. He entrusted himself to us. This is my Body; this is my Blood; he said. For the sake of his sorrowful passion, he would be merciful to us. In his appearances to his disciples, Jesus always asked them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" (John 21:5) and at Emmaus; Jesus the stranger opens their eyes at the Eucharistic table (Luke 24:13-35). The "body of Christ" broken for us at the Last Supper and from on top of the cross is the Eucharist through which the community of God's people is fully fed, protected and through which God's people are transformed from fear to hope and from death to life. Covid-19 would pass away and the Eucharist will remain with us. Christian communities have always been Eucharistic.

Happy Easter. He is Risen, the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia.

FR. JAMES OWOLAGBA, PASTOR