

Reflection – Third Sunday of Easter

Were not our hearts burning within us as he spoke to us on the way? --Luke 24:32

All of us are on the road to Emmaus. Emmaus is the code word for home, the place we come from and to which we most especially belong. It's the place where we feel we can be ourselves when no place else quite feels that it fits as well for us. St. Cronan is for many of us our "Church home" where we fit somehow with the diverse and varied community of pilgrims who find their way here most weeks. And on the way, in the process, we meet Jesus, but we don't always know it is He. We meet Him in the stranger we encounter and with whom we strike an unexpected bond, the person we haven't seen for a long time and with whom we enjoy a catch up conversation, the homilist who inspires us unknowingly with words that deeply touch us, the beautiful little child who escapes her parent's grasp and brings us a smile of delight as she races up the center aisle in freedom, Father Jack who tells just the right story, the choir who sings one of our favorite songs, the announcements which sometimes take longer than the Mass but speak to the community that we are, the treat of having happy and committed young people being baptized and received into the Church or confirmed. It's all part of what makes St. Cronan our weekend road to Emmaus. Whether it be "parish" or "chapel", it's our Church home!

And there, each in our own way and also corporately, we come once again to recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread. He "goes on ahead" while we beg Him to stay with us longer, and He does, perhaps joining us in some of those wonderful, prolonged conversations at coffee and donuts. Eventually, however, He goes farther on into the week, encouraging us to go with Him wherever this week will lead. And we go . . . to our families, friends or neighbors to share, like the disciples in today's Gospel, the wonderful, amazing experience we enjoyed that morning.

Sister Chabanel Mathison, O.S.U.