

Bishop's April Message

One of my favorite stories of the Easter season is the Emmaus Road (see Luke 24). I doubt there is a resurrection story that speaks more loudly to contemporary Christians. Two disciples on their way home to Emmaus, unable to recognize the Jesus who is walking beside them. Disciples so preoccupied with what had happened in Jerusalem that they forgot to remember what the Master had promised. As a result, Luke the gospel-writer pointedly describes them as “standing still, looking sad”. “We HAD hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.” Clearly, that hope was dead in them. Beginning with Moses and the prophets, Jesus told them his story. And still, they could not see.

The disciples arrive at home. The stranger seems to want to press on with his journey. “Stay with us”, the disciples say. There is bread at the table. Jesus takes it, breaks it, blesses, and gives – and in that familiar Eucharistic action, two disciples finally see Jesus for who he is. And in that recognition, Jesus vanishes. The disciples have been surprised by joy! Their mourning has been turned into dancing. Did not our hearts burn within us?... And from then on, these disciples had only one sermon to preach – how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. WE are those disciples. This is OUR story, this is OUR song...

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop
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