



REFLECTION ON THE JOURNEY OF JESUS' TWO DISCIPLES TO EMMAUS

"... were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way..." (Verse, 32)

Peace of the Risen Lord to you all and your families. A very happy Easter full of special blessings.

"That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him". (Verses, 13-15).

As Jesus accompanies them on their journey and engages in their conversation, their hearts are heavy with sorrow, in fact, they have forgotten all that Jesus had shared with them about his death and resurrection. "But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." (Verses, 21-24)

When they approach the village to which they were going, we are told that Jesus gave the impression that he was going on farther, but they invite him to stay with them and he accepts their invitation. While there, at table, "he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them and with these their eyes were opened and they recognized him. Then they said to each other, were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Verses, 28-32)

Let us reflect deeply on this encounter of the two disciples of Jesus, first as individuals and members of this great peace movement, Pax Christi International. Let each one walk this unique journey with Jesus – what do we discuss about? What makes our hearts heavy with sorrow today? Why are our hearts heavy and what is Jesus' invitation to us? What action of Jesus opens our eyes that we can recognise him? What makes our hearts burn within us when he speaks to us each day?

After this unique experience that was so life-giving to these two disciples, we see them leave for Jerusalem where they join the others to share the good news, that Jesus is risen (Verse, 33). They were no longer afraid. What happens to us after our unique experience?

Today, we face many challenges as we strive to live the Gospel of nonviolence that Jesus exemplifies through His paschal mystery. As we advocate for and with those suffering different vulnerabilities, walk this path that is less travelled, face ridicule and misunderstanding as we stand for truth and justice, we are being invited to live, die and rise with Jesus who is embodied in the women and men (both young and old) of our times. May we continue to take the bread, bless, break and give to our broken world today, that the hearts' of all we encounter each day will burn within them and that they will find hope in the risen Lord. (Gospel – Luke 24:13-33).

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!