

On the Road to Emmaus.

Have you ever seen a picture of Christ and two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus? You will find the story in the twenty-fourth chapter of St. Luke's gospel. Briefly it is this: After the resurrection two of the disciples had left Jerusalem without having seen their risen Master. Sad and disappointed at the apparent frustration of all their hopes, they were trudging along the road to Emmaus when a stranger caught up with them. Without revealing his identity he asked them the cause of their low spirits and the subject of their discussion. He explained to them the prophecies concerning the Christ and chided them saying: "O foolish, and slow of heart to believe....Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and so enter into His glory? Note the fact that their disbelief had kept them from recognizing who the stranger was.

Burning Hearts.

When they came to the town they begged him to remain with them. They went in and sat down to a table. During the meal the stranger blessed bread, and brake, and gave them to eat. Thereupon their eyes were opened and He vanished from their sight. Then they upbraided themselves, saying: "Was not our heart burning within us, whilst He spoke in the way, and opened to us the Scriptures?" In this we have a perfect example of the effect of the Holy Eucharist in our hearts. True we may not feel any sensation, any deep fervor, any exaltation. Nor are these at all necessary. Consciousness that we earnestly desire to do the will of God is proof enough that the glow of divine fire is in our hearts.

Loitering on the Road.

We have many among us who are just skirting the fringes of the road to Emmaus, that is to the fuller knowledge of the abiding effects of Holy Communion. They are not generous enough to set out bravely on the journey, enjoying Christ's presence with them every moment of the day. They keep saying that they are good enough and forgetting this: "Let him that is holy be holier still." Others walk the road, secure in their own conceit until they stub their toe, that is, until sickness, misfortune or sorrow comes upon them and then they cry out Lord! Lord! not remembering that "Not everyone who saith Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven." Others still keep running on and off the road, imagining that they enjoy the road better for having walked in the fields, or sad to say, in the ditches.

"O Foolish and Slow to Believe."

Concretely all excuse themselves under various pleas. One is not good enough, another fears too great familiarity; human respect deters another, routine alarms another. So we could go on indefinitely. In a word what all need is a livelier faith. "Lord that I may see," is a good prayer under the circumstances. Then a serious examination to discover whether one is kept from Holy Communion by pretext or temptation. In doubt tell the confessor.

A Union of Love.

Tomorrow is a special communion Sunday for the recovery and safe return of Jimmy Crowley. Show your loyalty by a record attendance. Monday we begin the novena for examinations. Those who have not begun the Church Unity Octave should do so tomorrow. Make this a perfect week of praise and glory to God and there shall be joy in heaven..and at Notre Dame.

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