



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

March 26, 2021

One of the most meaningful scripture passages for me involves the mystery of the Resurrection of Jesus. It is about the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus.

On Easter Sunday morning, they are on the road leaving Jerusalem and returning to their home town. We are told that these disciples are dejected, discouraged and lacking any sense of hope. The reason is that, because Jesus suffered and died like an ordinary man, He could not possibly be the great Messiah. They felt foolish because they had believed in Him.

On the road they meet the Risen Jesus but they did not recognize Him. This encounter is transformational as the disciples walk with Him and listen to His words. It is only in the 'breaking of the bread', that their eyes are finally opened and they understand that this man is Jesus, the Risen Lord. This realization fills them with great joy and a renewed sense of hope.

This past year has been a long and difficult journey due to the ever present pandemic. So many are suffering from 'COVID fatigue'. We can identify with those disciples on the road, who walked with heavy hearts filled with discouragement. They needed some 'good news', and this is what Jesus offered to them. It is also offered to us.

Our good news is the Resurrection. Jesus has truly risen from the dead and this fact brings great hope. Just as this brought comfort and joy to the two disciples, it should also do the same for us on our own life's journey.

On Easter Sunday, may your participation in the 'breaking of the bread, the Holy Eucharist', open your eyes to the presence of our Risen Lord. Despite the difficulties we may be facing at this present moment, let us take comfort in the fact that the Lord walks with us and shares a message of love and new life.

May you have a grace-filled Easter.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
Bishop of St. Catharines