

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

The Eucharist, one of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, is the source and summit of Catholic Christian life. The Gospel of Luke offers a powerful image of how Christ is present to us in the celebration of the Eucharist through the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. As you listen to the story, imagine you are there. How might the risen Christ change your life?

1. Imagine being one of Jesus' disciples journeying by foot many miles to the village of Emmaus from Jerusalem, where Jesus has just died on a cross. *How would you feel? Disappointed? Betrayed? Confused? Hopeless? What personal experiences can you relate to these feelings? How do you handle your own fears, doubts, questions, and disappointments? Do you seek the presence of Christ in the celebration of the Eucharist?*
2. The two disciples could have simply moved on after Jesus' death, but they pondered the meaning of the terrible events of the past days, including a report that Jesus had risen from the dead. They were trying to understand what had just happened. *When you are seeking guidance, do you listen with an open heart and mind for God's voice speaking to you in the Liturgy of the Word? Explain.*
3. As the disciples continued discussing the terrible events, the still-unknown stranger opened the meaning of Scripture for them, explaining how the events were a fulfillment of Scripture. *Do you listen for the voice of Christ in the Liturgy of the Word and the "opening" of Scripture through the homily? Explain.*



4. When the disciples reached their destination in Emmaus, they invited Jesus in with the words “Stay with us.” It is, paradoxically, Jesus who has first invited them. *How do you imagine that Jesus invites you to walk with him? Do you experience the celebration of the Eucharist as such an invitation? How do you respond? Is your response like that of the disciples who say “Stay with us”?*

5. At the moment when Jesus ritually blesses, breaks, and shares bread with the disciples, they recognize him. Then just as quickly as they recognize him, he disappears from their sight. Jesus’ actions of opening the Word of God and ritually blessing and sharing bread are at the heart of the celebration of the Eucharist. *How can you “invite Jesus in” when you recognize his presence in the Eucharist and in your everyday life? Do you bring Christ’s presence with you in service to others?*

6. Describe two new understandings of the Eucharist that you received through your reflection on the Emmaus story.

