



The Parish of the Holy Family

ALL ARE WELCOME
Growing in Faith Together

April 12, 2026 / Divine Mercy Sunday



“Easter is a journey of searching” by Fr. Martin Truong

We are living in the days of the Easter season. The Risen Christ reminds us of the purpose of human life. Christ’s resurrection is not merely a historical event, but a light that illuminates the entire meaning of human existence. Standing before the empty tomb, we are invited to ask a fundamental question: What do I live for?

The Resurrection affirms that death is not the end. Human beings were not created for oblivion, but for eternal life. The purpose of human life is to return to God—a life of fulfillment that transcends death. Easter is not just one day; it is a season, one filled with people searching.

Human life is a journey—a journey of searching. From the moment we are born until the day we die, we are searching for things like relationships, achievements, and possessions. Every human heart is searching for someone who understands us; for someone who stays; for someone who does not disappear. No matter what we may achieve, deep down we always harbor a sense of dissatisfaction, and so, we must continue to search.

It is like being thirsty and drinking salt water. The more we drink, the more thirsty we become. Why do we keep searching? Because nothing in this life completely satisfies us. Saint Augustine famously said that we are restless until we rest in God. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, in paragraph #1718, teaches: “The Beatitudes respond to the natural desire for happiness. This desire is of divine origin: God has placed it in the human heart in order to draw man to the One who alone can fulfill it.”

What did Jesus do after He resurrected from the dead? Jesus went and searched for His disciples. Jesus appeared to 2 of them on the road to Emmaus. He didn’t appear to scold them for running away or punish them for their lack of faith. Instead, He says: “Peace be with you.” Here is the beautiful truth of Easter: while we are searching for God, God is also searching for us. Jesus met Mary in her sorrow. Jesus met the disciples in their fear. Jesus met Thomas in his doubt. God doesn’t wait for perfect faith. He meets us in the middle of our search.





CNA | Catholic News Agency

News



Pope Leo on the dignity and mission of the laity: They are the body of Christ



The laity are not “a formless mass, but the body of Christ,” endowed with dignity and responsibility in the Church and in the world, Pope Leo XIV said in his catechesis at the general audience on Wednesday, April 1.

After riding around a packed St. Peter’s Square in the popemobile on April 1, the Holy Father recalled the nature and mission of the laity, who for centuries had been defined simply as “those who are not part of the clergy or the consecrated life” in a reflection based on the Second Vatican Council’s dogmatic constitution *Lumen Gentium*.

Dignity and mission of the laity

The pope explained that Vatican II broke with the former understanding of the laity by affirming the equality of all the baptized and emphasizing both the dignity and the mission of the laity in the Church and in the world.

“Naturally, the greater the gift, the greater the commitment too,” the pontiff said.

In light of *Lumen Gentium*, Leo affirmed that, by virtue of baptism, “the lay faithful participate in the very priesthood of Christ.”

He recalled the apostolic exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, in which St. John Paul II emphasized that “the council, with its rich doctrinal, spiritual, and pastoral patrimony, has written as never before on the nature, dignity, spirituality, mission, and responsibility of the lay faithful.” In this way, the saintly pope “relaunched the apostolate of the laity,” Leo noted.

He also stressed that the vast field of the lay apostolate “is not confined to the Church, but extends to the world” and that the Church is present “wherever her children profess and bear witness to the Gospel.”

As examples, he cited workplaces, civil society, and all human relationships, “wherever they, through their choices, show the beauty of Christian life, which foretells here and now the justice and peace that will be accomplished in the kingdom of God.”

Quoting *Lumen Gentium*, the Holy Father stated that “the world needs to be permeated by the spirit of Christ, and more effectively fulfill its purpose in justice, charity, and peace.” He added: “And this is possible only through the contribution, service, and witness of the laity!”

This, the pontiff explained, is the invitation to be the “outgoing” Church spoken of by Pope Francis: “a Church embodied in history, always open to mission, in which we are all called to be missionary disciples, apostles of the Gospel, witnesses of the kingdom of God, bearers of the joy of Christ whom we have encountered!”

During his greeting to pilgrims, Pope Leo XIV encouraged them to remain close to the tomb of Christ and to be faithful in the hour of silence and trial.

He also encouraged the faithful to strengthen their faith during Holy Week and to ask the Lord that the paschal mystery renew in them the grace to be joyful witnesses of the Risen One, confident that love and peace are stronger than death.



“A lovely night for the beginning of the Easter Vigil at our Easter fire, April 4th, 8 p.m.”

Special Thanks

A special thank-you goes out to all those who helped make our Holy Week & Triduum celebrations so wonderful and vibrant! Thanks to all the Liturgy Committee members who worked so long & hard to decorate the church worship space with a wide assortment of beautiful colors & religious symbols. Thanks to all our musicians & choir members who prepared for weeks & provided lovely music throughout that time period. Thanks to all our lectors, altar servers, ushers, greeters, AV Volunteers & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, who offer our parish community a much-needed service! Thanks to Father Martin, Deacon Dan Pavlina, and Deacon Binh Nguyen, for their continued dedicated work for the Lord in ministry. Thanks to everyone who attended our liturgies. Your presence has been a true gift to our faith family! Peace & joy to you this Easter season. (Fr. S)



Free Film for April

Our highly successful "Faith & Film" series, which offers a variety of free films for faith discussions & fellowship, continues on **Thursday, April 23rd, from 6:30 till 9 p.m.** in our Parish Life Center. Enjoy plenty of snacks and beverages as well.



We'll show the inspiring, critically acclaimed 1962 film *The Miracle Worker*. Anne Bancroft and Patty Duke won the Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress Oscars respectively for their powerful portrayals of Anne Sullivan (Bancroft) teaching the blind-deaf girl Helen Keller (Duke) to communicate. It's an unforgettable film on the themes of hope, new life, perseverance, and determination. Please RSVP at 247-4322, so that we may be able to properly plan on seating and refreshments. Bring a friend & enjoy!

Sunday Coffee Hour

We will be having our next Coffee hour on **Sunday, April 26, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass** in the Parish Life Center.

We would appreciate anyone who is able to donate a baked good for the event, to please do so.

The Parish Life Center doors will be open at 8:30a.m. for drop off of baked goods.



Upcoming Open Intentions

We have upcoming Mass & Sanctuary Lamp weeks that currently have no intentions. Please stop by the office to book one of these dates or any other date to remember a deceased friend or relative, to celebrate a special occasion, to pray for someone who is sick or suffering, or to give thanks to God.

9AM Weekday Mass

Monday 4/20, 5/18

Tuesday 4/28, 5/5, 5/26

Wednesday 6/10

Thursday 4/30, 6/11

Friday 4/24, 5/1, 5/22

Weekend Mass

Sunday 9am 4/19, 5/17, 5/31

Sunday 5PM 6/14

Sanctuary Lamp

Week of 5/31



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY SCHEDULE (APRIL 12th)

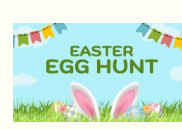
On Divine Mercy Sunday, the 2nd Sunday of Easter, there will be a special schedule of prayers & rites at our church that afternoon. Confessions will be heard that day starting at 1 p.m. At 2 p.m., the Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place, followed by readings at 2:15 p.m., the rosary for an era of peace at 2:30, the solemn divine mercy prayers at 3 p.m. and the solemn closing & benediction at 3:30 p.m.

For Divine Mercy Sunday, as a way for the faithful to experience Christ's mercy through the Catholic Church, the faithful are given the possibility of receiving a plenary indulgence (receiving God's special grace of a cancellation of temporal punishment due to one's sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. Keep in mind that forgiveness of a sin is separate from punishment for the sin. For example, a criminal may be forgiven for a crime, but may still serve jail time.)

In order to receive this plenary indulgence connected with Divine Mercy Sunday, Catholics must fulfill the following 3 criteria, according to the Vatican's decree on such indulgences: going to Confession (on Divine Mercy Sunday or within several days before), receiving Holy Eucharist on that Sunday, be free of any form of sin (large or small) in thought, word or deed, and praying for the Pope's intentions in a church or chapel, either taking part in prayers and devotions in honor of Divine Mercy, or reciting the Our Father and the Creed before the Blessed Sacrament (exposed or in the tabernacle), as well as including a prayer for Jesus' mercy (such as "Merciful Jesus, I trust in you.") If any of the above is lacking, then a partial indulgence can be granted to the faithful who at least demonstrate a sincere, contrite heart for all their sins, and pray for Jesus' mercy.

Remember that such good works don't earn our way to Heavenly glory, since salvation is always according to God's free gift. Our performing such faithful works should flow from our genuine love of God and neighbor, as Christ has taught us. Such works communicate our desire to rely on God's merciful love, as we journey together towards the hope of Heaven.

Some Symbols of Easter by Fr. Steve Lape



+++Easter candle—It represents a new light of salvation dawning on humanity: Jesus as the Light of the World, guiding us through the trials of darkness in our worldly life to the bright promise of eternal light & joy in Heaven. We believe that Jesus has overcome the darkness of death and sin with the Light of His Love, and we are called to be lights to the world and one another in Christ through our faithful works of love, goodness, & obedience to God.

+++Egg—It's a sign of re-creation, new life. It's also a symbol of the empty tomb. The colors have meaning as well. For example, red reminds us of the blood that Jesus shed during his Passion on His way to Calvary and His death on the cross. Blue, the color of the sky, can remind us of Christ's divinity, Heaven, holiness, and divine protection & guidance. Green points to life (like the grass, tree leaves, & plants). Yellow can serve to remind us about the light of God & hope in God. Purple signifies royalty & kingship (as Jesus is the Risen King of kings), in addition to the usual Lenten symbol of sorrow for sin & waiting. Orange can allude to the fire of the Holy Spirit (especially at Pentecost) as well as the flaming fire of faith in the hearts of Christian believers. It also can symbolize God's passionate, refining fire of energy & love for all of us & all of God's Creation.

+++Easter basket—Food is often placed in them, symbolizing God's abundant generosity of life and goodness to us as His children.

+++Easter Egg Hunt/Basket Hunt—Either kind of hunt could represent our search for meaning and true value in life, looking for clues on how God wants to get our attention with God's Will in our daily living.

+++Bunny/Rabbit —Such an animal has never been a religious symbol, but we could see rabbits as symbolizing the bringing of abundant new life by God who is the Source of all life. Rabbits are prolific. A one-month pregnancy for a rabbit can yield 5 to 8 bunnies in the Spring, with maybe two more litters by October.

Sisters in Christ Ministry

Women of the parish gather together to go wherever the Spirit leads them. We pray together, discuss women's issues and daily challenges, extend assistance to those in need in our local community and have fun together.

Our next meeting will be
6PM Tuesday, April 14- MH



PRO-LIFE REFLECTION

NY policy violates the natural right to life that belongs to an innocent person, it's unjust and therefore is incapable of having the force of law

—The Gospel of Life, 90

Reflection: The Church does not say that laws that allow abortion are just "bad laws." The Church declares that they are no laws at all.

Rather, they are acts of violence, and must be rejected rather than obeyed. To be valid and binding, a law must never contradict the Law of God.

Prayer: Father, as we live amidst unjust laws, give us the grace to recognize them as invalid, to say so to others, and to work to change them.

The return of a Tradition

St. Pius Pasta Dinner

St. Pius X Church,
3010 Chili Ave., Chili NY



Sunday April 19, 2026
11am-3pm

2 Seatings available

- 11 to 1
- 1 to 3

Adults \$12
Students 6-17 \$6
Children under 6 Free
Family Maximum \$30

Net Proceeds to benefit
St. Pius School

Raffles will also
be available

Dinner Includes:
Salad, Bread & Butter
Penne Pasta with Sauce, Meatballs
coffee, tea, lemonade, Iced tea, water
• Beer, wine, and desserts
available for a free will donation



Tickets are available:
• kofc17086.square.site
• Presale (watch bulletin)
• Phone (585-340-7370)
• At the door.



Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jack Rowell, Army | Vincent Ariola, Marines |
| Dominic Bushen, Army | Shawn Bunton, Army National Guard |
| James Calamita, Army | Vincent Le, Marines |
| Anthony Calamita, Army | Daniel Davis, Army |
| Timothy Vara, Navy | Breana Reitano, Navy |
| Russell Montante Jr., Air Force | Jeffrey DeBona, Army National Guard |
| Michael Rigoni, Navy | Michael Shott, Army |
| Ethan Stott, Army | Evan Stott, Navy |
| Jason Bosch, Navy | Andrew Zani, Army |
| Christopher Decker, Navy | Anthony Gionta, Army |
| Nick Donato, Air Force | Colin Winkworth, Army |
| Ethan Reitano, Navy | Nicholas Colucci, Army |
| Wesley Colucci, Army | Kennith Curtis, Army National Guard |



If you have someone in the Military, please send their name to Paul Lobene at: Paul.Lobene@dor.org and they will be added to our list.



PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of Love, Our World is wrought with war and violence, as brother turns on brother, and the innocent awake to gunfire and bombs.

May Your compassion and healing move hearts and bring a new day to Ukraine. Fortify your children to resist aggression and instead become instruments of peace. We ask this in the name of the One who is the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ— Amen



WEEKLY EVENTS

April 12 thru April 19

Sunday-April 12 Divine Mercy Sunday

1PM Confessions-Divine Mercy-CH

2PM Divine Mercy-CH

Monday- April 13

Tuesday-April 14

6PM Sisters in Christ-MH

7PM Bible Study –PLC Library

Wednesday- April 15

5:30PM Faith Formation Classes-PLC

6:30PM OCIA Upstairs Conference Room

Thursday- April 16

7PM Blue Army-CH

Friday- April 17

Saturday- April 18

Sunday- April 19

9AM VCC Fundraiser-PLC

9AM First Eucharistic Families-PLC

Food Cupboard this week:

-Canned Chicken-



Knights of Columbus Annual Golf Tournament

The Rochester Area 4th Degree Assemblies of the Knights of Columbus are holding their annual charitable golf tournament at Salmon Creek Country Club, 355 Washington Street in Spencerport, on Sunday, August 16th. Registration opens that day at 11 a.m. and dinner (a steak roast) is at 5 p.m. The tournament, which has been taking place annually for over 12 years, will benefit the Veterans Outreach Center, which provides military veterans with high-quality, individualized services, such as employment assistance, job training, health & wellness, legal counseling, residential program, and much more. You can also enjoy lunch and dinner. For more info or to register, please pick up a registration brochure on the table in the front vestibule of the church. The deadline to register is August 6th.



Looking for Altar Servers

We are hoping to build up our list of altar servers to assist at weekend Masses. Those baptized Catholics who are in 4th grade or older and have received First Communion are invited to serve in this role. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Fr. Steve.

All Are Welcome



Location Key

CH- Church

PLC- Parish Life Center

LIB- Parish Life Center/Library

MH—Office Building -Lower Level Main Hall



Our very busy campus has three Faith Formation programs that have been successfully up and running – the Vietnamese Community on Sunday afternoons, St. Theodore’s on Monday nights and Parish of the Holy Family on Wednesday nights. Two of our Faith Formation Directors (Jeanne at Parish of the Holy Family and Maureen at St. Theodore’s) have made progress getting to know the many wonderful people of this community and appreciate your understanding of the extra safety precautions with doors being locked for the safety of staff and students during classes on Monday and Wednesday nights. Our hall monitors remain available to open the doors for you. The usage of the building remains the same while classes are not in session.

Time is getting short (one more week!) for our five families preparing for the celebration of Eucharist for the first time on April 19th at the 9 AM Mass. Please keep them in prayer as they make this next step in their journey of faith.

Also, five of our teens are in the midst of the final stage of preparation to celebrate Confirmation at Sacred Heart Cathedral on April 29th, along with those at St. Theodore’s completing the last of their Sacraments of Initiation. Please keep them and their families in prayer as they work to celebrate this sacrament to complete their Sacraments of Initiation.

We break open the “Walk to Emmaus” during our opening prayer this week as Jesus helps us see the many references to him leading us to a deeper understanding of our faith.

Next week is the last session of our weekly formal lessons in faith. We conclude with classroom time and a celebration of all we have shared in this past year, looking forward to our continued journey in our faith.

Faithfully,

Jeanne Pavlina



SAINT MICHAEL'S FAMILY PROTECTION INSTITUTE PRESENTS:

BREAK THROUGH 2

GRADES 6-12 WELCOME --- AGE BASED GROUPS

Discover Deeper Connections with Friends, Family & God

Saturday, April 25th 9am-3pm

Parish of the Holy Family
4100 Lyell Road, Rochester, NY

FEATURING TALKS BY:



JOEY PONTARELLI
Founder, Restored Ministry



SAMANTHA KELLEY
Founder, FIERCE Athlete, Inc.

Learn More & Register:
smfpi.org/breakthrough



\$20 Lunch Included





Financial /Attendance
Figures unavailable before going to press.

Budget: \$12,625 Actual:
Variance: YTD Actual:
YTD Budget: YTD Variance
Attendance:1194

DONATE TO THE CMA APPEAL ONLINE



We now have a quick link on our Parish website for donating to the CMA Appeal.

Please remember that an installment payment option is also available. Please remember that donations can be made thru May.

REGISTRATION REQUEST FORM



It is always a great joy to welcome new members to our Community.

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Parish of the Holy Family Community or would you like further information on our parish? Please cut out this registration form and place it in the collection basket.

A member of our Welcoming Committee will then contact you to complete the Registration Form and/or share Information with you.

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone _____

Best time to call:

AM PM

WE MADE IT!!!

Forward in Faith



\$142,000

OUR GOAL!



\$150,177

Goal 105.70%
Donors- 445

2025-2026 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

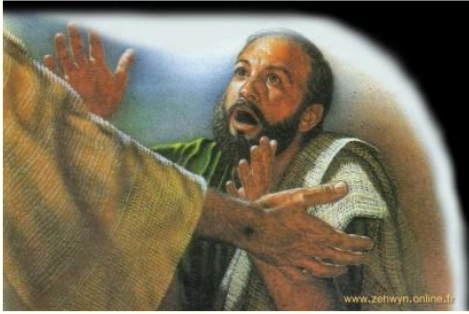


Find us online at

www.theparishoftheholymfamily.org

Comments & Suggestions to:

Paul.Lobene@dor.org



Cảm thông với nhau

(Suy niệm của Lm. Giuse Tạ Duy Tuyền)

Có một bác sĩ nói rằng: mỗi lần mổ bệnh nhân khi thấy thân thể họ tan nát ông thường đứng lòng kêu lên “Lạy Chúa, lạy Chúa tôi”. Đây là lời than ai oán, lời cảm thương, lời chia sẻ với nỗi đau của tha nhân. Đây cũng là lời chúng ta vẫn thường nói hay thường nghe khi chứng kiến một người bị tai nạn, bị đói khổ, bất hạnh chúng ta cũng từng kêu lên “lạy Chúa, lạy Chúa tôi”.

Cuộc đời quanh ta có biết bao người khổ đau lầm than. Có kẻ đói ăn. Có kẻ đói hạnh phúc. Có kẻ cô đơn, bệnh tật, bị bỏ rơi. Có biết bao mảnh đời chung quanh khi nhìn thấy mà lòng chúng ta cũng quặn đau với nỗi đau của họ. Có chứng kiến được những bất hạnh của tha nhân mới thấy nhu cầu dẫn thân xoa dịu nỗi đau thật cần thiết. Có nhìn thấy nỗi bất hạnh của tha nhân mới biết mình cần phải làm gì để xoa dịu nỗi đau.

Ông Tôma năm xưa khi được tận mắt thấy những dấu đinh đâm tan nát nơi thân thể Chúa, khi ông trông thấy lỗ rách nơi cạnh sườn Chúa, ông cũng đã thốt lên trong đau đớn “lạy Chúa, lạy Chúa tôi”. Ông cảm thương với nỗi đau của Thầy. Mặc dù ông đã chứng kiến từ xa cảnh tan nát của Thầy, nhưng hôm nay ông được tiếp xúc gần gũi, gần đến nỗi có thể xỏ ngón tay vào các lỗ đinh của Thầy thì nỗi cảm xúc của ông cũng dâng trào trong trái tim ông. Dù rằng, ông đã không xỏ một ngón tay nào vào lỗ đinh của Chúa, nhưng trái tim mạch bảo cho ông biết cần phải làm gì để xoa dịu nỗi đau cho Thầy Chí Thánh.

Khi cảm nghiệm về nỗi đau của Thầy Giêsu, Tôma đã được biến đổi. Ông quỳ xuống tôn thờ Chúa. Ông mong muốn dành cuộc đời để loan truyền tình thương Chúa cho nhân loại. Ông hiểu hơn về lòng thương xót của Chúa dành cho nhân loại. Chính vì yêu. Chính vì muốn biểu lộ lòng thương xót cho nhân loại mà Thầy Giêsu đã can tâm tình nguyện chịu chết trên thập giá. Chính Thầy Giêsu đã bày tỏ lòng thương xót của mình khi tự nguyện gánh lấy những cực hình, những đau đớn để cứu độ chúng sinh. Chính Chúa không chỉ nhìn thấy những khổ đau của con người để xót xa, chạnh lòng thương mà Ngài còn dẫn thân phục vụ để xoa dịu nỗi đau cho chúng ta. Chúa xót thương khi sống nghèo để đồng cảm với những người nghèo. Chúa xót thương khi sống phục vụ để xoa dịu nỗi đau cho những kẻ bất hạnh. Chúa xót thương nhân loại đang chết trong tội lỗi nên đã gánh lấy cực hình để đền thay tội lỗi nhân gian. Lòng thương xót của Chúa mãi mãi chịu hiến tế để cứu nhân gian.

Hôm nay, ngày lễ Lòng Thương Xót của Chúa, Giáo Hội cũng tôn phong hai chân phước lên bậc hiển thánh. Đặc biệt Đức Thánh Cha Gioan Phaolô II, một con người của lòng thương xót. Lòng thương xót của Ngài biểu hiện qua việc tha thứ cho kẻ đã ám sát Ngài. Lòng thương xót của Ngài còn biểu hiện qua việc cảm nhận sự liên đới trách nhiệm với những sự chia rẽ trong quá khứ do hiểu lầm hay do bất khoan dung, thế nên, Ngài đã rất nhiều lần xin lỗi Chúa, xin lỗi anh em, xin lỗi vì những đối xử bất khoan dung đã gây nên những đổ vỡ.

Chính Ngài cũng là tông đồ của Lòng Thương Xót khi dẫn thân cố võ lòng thương xót của Chúa. Chính Ngài đã thổi vào nhân loại này một năng lực mới từ lòng thương xót của Chúa. Để rồi lòng thương xót của Chúa như vũ khí mới để chiến thắng ba thù, như làn nước trong xanh để đem lại ơn phúc cho những ai tin tưởng chạy đến với Lòng Thương Xót của Chúa.

Ước gì chúng ta luôn nhận ra tình thương vô bờ bến của Chúa để như Tôma quỳ lạy tôn thờ Chúa trên hết mọi sự. Xin cho chúng ta luôn tín thác vào lòng thương xót của Chúa để ân sủng của Chúa chữa lành những vết thương tâm hồn và thân xác cho chúng ta. Amen.

https://gpcantho.com/cac-bai-suy-niem-chua-nhat-2-phuc-sinh-nam-a/#_Toc480313206

April 19– Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33 / Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21 / Gospel Reading: Luke 24:13-35

How do you feel when you meet someone for the second time, and they don't recognize you or know who you are? Do you feel somewhat diminished? Do you not wonder whether this relational disconnect is a reflection of your unimportance, their lack of understanding of your value, or is it just a case of bad memory? Jesus also went unrecognized by many, but He was not lessened by their failure to recognize Him. In some cases, people like the Israelites Peter spoke to in the first reading didn't recognize Jesus as being from God, or as being the Messiah and Savior. Others, like the disciples in next week's Gospel reading, caught up in their own woundedness, also failed to recognize him as they moved through their daily life.



It is difficult to imagine that the disciples could be in the actual presence of the resurrected Savior, conversing with Him, yet unable to recognize Him. But is it really so hard to believe? We too are often in the actual presence of Jesus and fail to recognize him. When we are with other believers, in whom Jesus lives, He is there, really there. When we read or hear the Scriptures, He is there, really there. When we unite with others around the Eucharist, Christ is present, really present. Sadly, we often fail to recognize Him.

Like the disciples' experience on the road to Emmaus, there is no recognition unless the Lord opens our understanding and reveals himself. It was in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread that Jesus revealed Himself to the disciples. These are the means He still chooses to show Himself to us. We find throughout sacred Scripture pleas such as: "Speak, Lord, your servant listens." "Grant me understanding, that I may know your testimonies." "Incline my heart to the words of your mouth." Thoughts and prayers similar to these should be the continual response of our heart and lips. It is unfortunate, if we participate in spiritual activities without experiencing the Lord's presence. He is what our life is really all about.

Speaking of the need for the Lord to reveal himself, St. Thomas à Kempis says: "The Prophets can preach the word, but they cannot bestow the Spirit. They speak most eloquently, but if You are silent, they cannot fire the heart. They instruct in the letter, but You open the understanding. They set forth the mysteries, but You reveal the meaning of all secrets. They teach your commandments, but You help us to observe them. They point the way, but You grant us strength to follow it. Their action is external; You instruct and enlighten the heart. They water the seed; You make it fruitful. They proclaim the words, but You impart understanding to the mind. Therefore, let not Moses speak to me, but You, O Lord my God, the Everlasting Truth, . . ."1

The plaintive words of the disciples, "we had hoped," stand out in sharp contrast to the psalmist's exultation that "because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." Our spiritual future can be characterized by a hopeless, dull disappointment or by a vibrant experience of fulfillment. God is ever ready to open our eyes through the Scriptures and through the Eucharist, but we must be willing to seek him there. We do that by reading and meditating on sacred Scripture and by seeking his presence in the Eucharist. If we do either with only token commitment, we cannot expect anything other than a token recognition of his presence.

1 *The Imitation of Christ*.

Ingredients

- 16 oz Fettuccine pasta
- 15 oz Alfredo Sauce
- 1/2 lb. Petite Sweet Peas
- 4 oz Prosciutto, cut into 1/2-inch strips
- 2 tbsp Italian parsley, chopped
- 1/2 whole lemon, zested



Fettuccine with Prosciutto and Peas



Directions:

- Cook pasta per package directions. Reserve 1/4 cup pasta water; set aside.
- Heat sauce in braising pan on MED. Add peas and prosciutto; simmer 5 min.
- Add pasta, reserved pasta water, parsley, and lemon zest to pan; toss to combine.