

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, 2008

*“Was not our heart burning within us, as He spoke to us in the way
and opened to us the Scriptures?”*

(Lk. 24:32)

Those words of Sacred Scripture express for us the mind of the two disciples whom Christ walked with on the evening of the day He rose from the dead. Remember that “their eyes were held that they should not know Him” and it was finally after “He took bread and blessed and broke and gave to them” that their eyes were opened and they knew Him. How often does He, the Eternal Word of God, open to us the Scriptures — it is part of the liturgy every time we attend Mass; part of our very act of worshipping the Sovereign Majesty of God. Once again I remind you that the Sacred Scripture is the “Living Word” of God in which God is present though quite often our eyes are so held by some other matter that we do not know Him.



In Scott Hahn's book *Letter and Spirit*, we find this in the foreword from the Pontifical Biblical Commission:

“It is above all through the Liturgy that Christians come into contact with Scripture ... Christ is then present in His Word, because it is He himself who speaks when Sacred Scripture is read in the Church. Written text thus becomes Living Word.”

And in the same book we find this quotation:

“Nevertheless, however enriching the Gospel reading may be, however eloquent the sermon, revelation of the divine Word remains incomplete before celebration of the Eucharistic Mystery. As in the experience of the disciples at Emmaus, the gathered community only ‘perceives’ the full revelation, it only opens its eyes to a true understanding and acceptance of the Divine Economy through a personal and intimate communion in the divine gifts of Christ’s Body and Blood. The Liturgy of the Word thus comes to fulfilment in and through the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the sacrament of sacraments that alone transforms the Word from a message about Jesus into a true participation in His divine life.”

Pondering those words should make our heart to burn within us; to burn with a love of God in His Son Jesus Christ. Such gifts are freely given to us as long as we are

properly prepared. We must surely realise the necessity of a proper preparation; to actually meet Jesus, to know the love of His Sacred Heart, that in Holy Communion the Sacred Heart is beating in our own hearts, for we receive the risen Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

The late Pope, John Paul II (speaking to youth of the world) said:

“Jesus is not an idea, sentiment, a memory! Jesus is a person, always alive and present with us! Love Jesus present in the Eucharist. He is present in a sacrificial way in Holy Mass, which renews the Sacrifice of the Cross. To go to Mass means going to Calvary to meet Him, our Redeemer. He comes to us in Holy Communion and remains present in the tabernacles of our churches, for He is our friend.

“To contemplate Christ involves being able to recognise Him whenever He manifests himself in his many forms of presence, but above all in the living sacrament of His Body and His Blood. The Church draws her life from Christ in the Eucharist; by Him she is fed and by Him she is enlightened. The Eucharist is both a Mystery of Faith and a Mystery of Light. ‘The Eucharist is light!’ In the word of God constantly proclaimed, in the bread and wine that have become the Body and Blood of Christ, it is precisely He, the risen Lord, who opens minds and hearts and makes us recognise him.”

In His promise of the Eucharist (*John VI*) Christ repeatedly speaks of himself in the Eucharist as being “Life” and as “Life-giving”.

“For the bread of God is that which cometh down from heaven and giveth life to the world ... I am the living bread which came down from heaven ... the bread that I will give is My flesh, for the life of the world ... As the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth Me, the same also shall live by Me ... he that eateth this bread, shall live for ever.”

In this month of June, dedicated to the Love of God in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: Ireland has become impoverished by the seeking after earthly things — indeed by the worship of the golden calf, the first great apostasy. Recently on the global TV and Radio network EWTN there was an appeal from a professor of Maynooth to revive the devotions of First Friday, so sadly forgotten. Both the feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the First Friday of June, His own special month, were sadly forgotten on a vast scale. There is a need for every soul to take stock — a need for examination of conscience to honestly discover what we as individuals really lack in our spiritual lives. Christ gave His all; what to we give in return? Let us turn to our blessed Mother, whose sorrowful and Immaculate Heart is also little thought of. Pray the Rosary as a family; be faithful to pondering all the mysteries of the Rosary; for that devotion will lead us to a true and more fervent appreciation of the redeeming Sacrifice of our Lord.

[Back to Fr Brady's Homilies](#)