

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings:

Death did not conquer him. Acts 2:14,22-33
Freed by the blood of the Lamb. 1 Pt 1:17-21
Road to Emmaus. Lk 24:13-35

Next Week:

The good shepherd
Acts 2:14,36-41; 1 Pt 2:20-25;
Jn 10:1-10

In a nutshell

On the road to Emmaus two disciples make the journey from fear and uncertainty to faith and joy in the Lord. Their proclamation resonates for us today: Jesus is risen! He has not abandoned his followers but is very much alive to them. His presence is experienced in a heightened way each time we break open the Word and share the Eucharistic bread.



Eucharist!

A Marist Brother working in the Solomon Islands recalls a tense moment last year when the link between Eucharistic prayer and the challenges of daily living was never more apparent.

Because of the militant activity in our area, all other civilians had been evacuated. But we Marists refused to budge. Never was our isolation so pronounced as it was each morning when Mass was celebrated at the parish church - with us as the only attendees. We refused to go away.

We tried to carry on with our lives as much as possible, but the gunfire between the two camps was getting heavier and heavier so we knew something was brewing. It finally happened on a Saturday morning. We were assembled for our morning Mass when all hell broke loose. The Malaita Eagle Force on one side of us had decided to push straight across the church property and drive the opposing militants from their position. Caught off guard, we were quickly

diving for cover. The noise was unbelievable. Luckily for us the church is a solid brick and concrete structure. Within a few minutes the gunfire had moved beyond the church.

As nobody was injured we decided to carry on with Mass. A few minutes later a man who had been shot three times came through a side door and collapsed on the ground.

It wasn't long before a Malaita Eagle commander came looking for the wounded man. If he had taken him away, he would have been executed immediately. After much talking we finally convinced the commander that the man had been an innocent bystander in the grounds of the church and we were allowed to take him to the hospital. (MS)

Source: Br Matthew Somers, *Mission Today: Newsletter of Catholic Mission*, Vol 11 #2 2001.

'They recognised him in the breaking of the bread'

As a family we try to share dinner each night together to share the day's news and events. There have been several ups and downs over the past four years: retrenchment, unemployment and shortage of money. But with that came more time to spend together and hence a change in expectations and future plans. Although the lack of money at the time was hard it had its benefits. These days we spend most Saturdays at home together as a family and try to do something together each weekend. Our life is

pretty comfortable as our financial expectations are not high. Spiritual and emotional happiness are higher on our list of priorities.

Source : *In Their Own Words* (Bishops' Committee for Family and for Life, 2000)



I love meals with family or special friends when our conversation enters a mode of deep sharing without any external framework steering us that way. It happens just because of the natural bonds of love, our shared history, our shared faith, and a desire to be open and interested in each other's lives. Such meals don't happen every day, but when they do they are a real treasure. (Anna)

Foster a sense of Word and Eucharist at home.

Four tips:

1. Create a 'sacred space' at home; place a family bible there.
2. Tell bible stories to young children.
3. Arrange your schedule around family mealtimes.
4. Treat Sundays as special.



RealPeople offers faith reflections from the saints and prophets of everyday life.

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