“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us”
— Romans 8:18

On the Road to Emmaus

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, our lives are full of stress and distress. Social distancing, lack of testing supplies, safety concerns for health care providers and their families, the uncertainty of returning to work, and the heartbreaking deaths caused by the virus are but a few of the many agonies challenging us.

But our story is not new. After the death of Jesus Christ, two disciples on the road to Emmaus, experienced sadness, despair, and hopelessness. They had thought Jesus was the one sent by God to bring redemption, to give them peace, and to provide them with prosperity and promise. But everything they had hoped for had ended in disgrace on a cross. They thought they had been traveling toward freedom, but it turned out to have a tragic end.

But at an unexpected moment, on a deserted road, Jesus mysteriously appears to open the Scriptures and show how God, from the beginning of time, was redeeming Israel beyond all their hopes and dreams. Then, through the gift of Himself in the breaking of the bread on a table, how Jesus brings suffering and salvation together. Hope is reborn, distress and stress vanish. Comfort, peace, and promise are found. More importantly, we somehow know that God is writing our suffering and hope into the story of our salvation.

Sincerely in the Risen Christ,

Fr. Bob Kelly, OP

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