

Jesus Has Risen: It is myself!

Homily, 24th April, 2014

Luke 24,35-48

father G. Papparone o.p.

My dearest,

The text we just heard concludes the episode we read during yesterday's Eucharist, which was the apparition of Jesus to the disciples of Emmaus.

In today's Gospel also, are brought to light the **difficulties of believing** and the **nature of Resurrection**.

Jesus says to them: *It is I myself. Touch me and see; Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.*

Of course it is quite impossible for us to understand how Jesus could have appeared before them and physically: *Put your finger here and see my hands, and put out your hand, and place it in my side.*

Here 's a very pragmatic way of declaring that **Resurrection does not entail the termination of our fleshliness, of our corporeity, but the passing of our flesh to a different dimension**. The witnesses testify this and to have faith means to believe in this.

Then Jesus underlines once more another truth: **death is necessary in order to rise**.

Evidently we can understand this from a spiritual perspective because if we die, we die to sin, we rise to sanctity.

If Jesus told us that his physical death is the prelude to His resurrection, we must believe that one day we shall also experience the resurrection of our bodies. This is contained in our Creed: "I believe in Resurrection and life of the world to come".

Well, let us place our trust in Him: Let us believe and live. Let us try to be dead to self, to sin, which means to self-indulgent human passions, to a worldly mentality, to idolatry.

Lets us be born again of the Spirit to a new life and one day we will be born again with our bodies as well.

Praised be Jesus Christ.