



Academy of Our Lady of Grace

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Dear Parents,

Recognizing the Jesus that is Right in Front of Us

The disciples in today's gospel are recounting what had occurred on the road to Emmaus and how they had finally recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread, when Jesus again appears to them. The disciples are filled with wonder and awe, but they are also still in disbelief. Jesus then sits and eats with them and explains the foretold prophecy of the Bible – how the Messiah would suffer, die and rise from the dead.

Today's gospel reminds me to slow down and pay attention to the daily opportunities to encounter Christ. How many times do I fail to recognize Jesus even when he is right in front of me? How often do I experience Jesus but fail to appreciate the experience because I am so caught up in the need to understand the logic or have an explanation? Jesus comes to our world in many forms. Today, let us remember that we are called to open our minds and our hearts to experiencing Christ in our daily lives.

To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by laboring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain.

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Let the grace of your baptism bear fruit in a path of holiness. Let everything be open to God; turn to him in every situation. Do not be dismayed, for the power of the Holy Spirit enables you to do this, and holiness, in the end, is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Peter