

My Dear Co-Pilgrims on the Eucharistic Journey,

Today, the theme of our pilgrimage is "The Greatest Love Story".

Continuing our journey - we are presented with a compelling kerygmatic message (proclamation of our salvation story), extending an invitation to establish an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We are invited to rethink the ways we understand our journey (Emmaus walk) in light of the story of salvation: The Greatest Love Story ever told!

As pilgrims, we have the privilege of responding to this call through the sacred act of the Eucharist. We embark on a journey to comprehend how our personal narratives intertwine harmoniously within the broader context of salvation history. Like Cleopas and his companion, who walked with Jesus on their way to Emmaus. Their lives were changed, their perspectives were recalibrated, and their hearts were set on fire.

Dr. Scott Hann speaking about the priestly experience of our sacerdotal journey using the Emmaus Story. My mind can't help relate this talk to our common priesthood experience. While the parallelisms within the Old Testament and New Testament were made as Jesus "opened the scriptures" to Cleopas and his companion, they heard an ever-new and ever-ancient invitation of Jesus to participate in salvation history in a "new way". And all of this is patent in the celebration and participation in the Eucharistic life; for they recognized Jesus, "in the breaking of the Bread".

Fr Mike Smitz, spoke in similar words but highlighted the importance of REPENTANCE in this transformative power of the Eucharist and the life it upholds. Repentance, Fr Mike says, is love. And the opposite of love is indifference. One might know with full knowledge, and yet real transformation happens when we begin to "care about what God wants and says".

"Original Sin" was the term used to connote Adam and Eve "carelessness" for what God's plan. While we have a capacity to know, and a tendency to "not care" about what we know with

our minds, we are invited to repent in order to participate in salvation: the Greatest Love Story ever told.

Your parish priest,

Fr JC Merino





