



The Holy See

POPE FRANCIS

REGINA CAELI

Saint Peter's Square
Sunday, 23 April 2023

[\[Multimedia\]](#)

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

On this third Sunday of Easter, the Gospel narrates the encounter of the Risen Jesus with the disciples of Emmaus (cf. *Lk* 24: 13-35). These are two disciples who, resigned to the death of the Master, decide on the day of Passover to leave Jerusalem and to return home. Perhaps they were a little uneasy because they had heard the women coming from the sepulchre and saying that it was empty... but they left. And while they were walking, sadly talking about what had happened, Jesus appeared beside them, but they did not recognize him. He asks them why they are so sad, and they say to him: “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” (v. 18). And Jesus replies: “What things?” (v. 19). And they tell him the entire story, and Jesus lets them tell him the story. Then, while they are walking, he helps them reinterpret the facts in a different way, in the light of the prophecies, of the Word of God, of all that had been proclaimed to the people of Israel. To re-read: that is what Jesus does with them, helping them to re-read. Let us dwell on this aspect.

Indeed, for us too it is important to re-read our history together with Jesus: the story of our life, of a certain period, of our days, with its disappointments and hopes. Besides, we too, like those disciples, faced with what happens to us, can find ourselves lost in the face of events, alone and uncertain, with many questions and worries, disappointments, many things. Today’s Gospel invites us to tell Jesus everything, sincerely, without being afraid of disturbing him: he listens, without fear of saying the wrong thing, without shame at our struggle to understand. The Lord is happy

whenever we open ourselves to him. Only in this way can he take us by the hand, accompany us and make our hearts burn again (cf. v. 32). We too, then, like the disciples of Emmaus, are called to spend time with him so that, when evening comes, he will remain with us (cf. v. 29).

There is a good way of doing this, and today I would like to propose it to you: it consists in dedicating some time, every evening, to a brief *examination of conscience*. What happened today within me? That is the question. It is a matter of *re-reading the day with Jesus*, re-reading my day: opening the heart to him, bringing to him people, choices, fears, falls and hopes, all the things that happened; to learn gradually to look at things with different eyes, with his eyes and not just our own. We can thus relive the experience of those two disciples. Before Christ's love, even what seems wearisome and unsuccessful can appear under another light: a difficult cross to embrace, the decision to forgive an offence, a missed opportunity for redress, the toil of work, the sincerity that comes at a price, and the trials of family life can appear to us in a new light, the light of the Crucified and Risen, who knows how to turn every fall into a step forward. But in order to do this, it is important to *drop our defences* : to leave time and space for Jesus, not to hide anything from him, to bring him our miseries, to let ourselves be wounded by his truth, to let our heart vibrate at the breath of his Word.

We can begin today, dedicate a moment of prayer this evening, during which we ask ourselves: how was my day? What were its joys, what were its sorrows, what were its monotonies, how did it go, what happened? What were the pearls of the day, possibly hidden, to be thankful for? Was there a little love in what I did? And what are the falls, the sadness, the doubts and the fears to bring to Jesus so that he can open new ways to me, to lift me up and encourage me? May Mary, wise Virgin, help us to recognize Jesus who walks with us and to re-read — here is the word: *re-read* — every day of our life in front of him.

After the Regina Caeli, the Holy Father continued:

Dear brothers and sisters, yesterday, in Paris, Henri Planchat, priest of the Congregation of Saint Vincent de Paul, Ladislav Radigue and three companion priests of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary were beatified. Pastors inspired by apostolic zeal, they were united in their witness to the faith to the point of martyrdom, which they suffered in Paris in 1871, during the so-called Paris "Commune". A round of applause for the new Blessed!

Yesterday was Earth Day. I hope that commitment to care for creation may always be combined with effective solidarity with the poorest.

Unfortunately, the situation in Sudan remains grave, and therefore I renew my appeal for an end to the violence as soon as possible and for a return to the path of dialogue. I invite everyone to pray

for our Sudanese brothers and sisters.

Today is the 99th Day for the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, on the theme *For the love of knowledge. The challenges of the new humanism*. I hope that the largest Italian Catholic university will face these challenges with the spirit of the founders, in particular the young Armida Barelli, proclaimed Blessed a year ago.

Next Friday, I will travel to Budapest, in Hungary, for three days, to complete the trip I made in 2021 for the International Eucharistic Congress. It will be an opportunity to embrace once again a Church and a people so dear to me. It will also be a journey to the centre of Europe, over which the icy winds of war continue to blow, while the displacement of so many people puts urgent humanitarian questions on the agenda. But now I wish to address you with affection, dear Hungarian brothers and sisters, as I look forward to visiting you as a pilgrim, friend and brother of all, and to meet, among others, your authorities, the bishops, the priests and consecrated persons, the young, the university community and the poor. I know you are making great efforts to prepare for my arrival: I thank you from my heart for this. And I ask you all to accompany me on this journey with your prayers.

And let us not forget our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, still afflicted by this war.

I greet you all from my heart, people of Rome and pilgrims from Italy and many countries — I see the flags of many countries — in particular those of Salamanca and the students of Albacete, as well as the Veneto-Trentino group of the Order of Malta Relief Corps.

I greet the faithful of Ferrara, Palermo and Grumello del Monte; the community of the Diocesan School of Lodi; the young people of various towns in the Dioceses of Alba, Bergamo, Brescia, Como and Milan; the candidates for Confirmation from many Italian parishes; the pupils of the Sacred Heart Institute of Cadoneghe; the “Volontieri” cooperative from Casoli and the “Mototurismo” group from Agna.

I wish you all a happy Sunday; and please do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch.
Arrivederci!