

## Easter Vigil 2022

Luke 24:1-12

The Dominican, Fr. Herbert McCabe, in *Give Us This Day* writes, "Christ's resurrection was not just a return to life in this world; it was into heaven, but that does not mean it was life in some kind of "spirit world"; it was the beginning of a new world, a human bodily life in the Kingdom.

"The resurrection sets the seal on Incarnation: it is not that God *was* man, but that God *is* man, a human, bodily, animal, alive with the bodily life of God.

"...***The resurrection of Jesus was the creation of the new bodily world***, the new way of being human, the new way of being bodily. The risen Jesus did not enter paradise. He *is* paradise. Heaven is not a place beyond the sky, (that is why Jesus told them that the Kingdom of Heaven is within!) It is the risen Christ, the body of Christ living by love, the beginning of risen humankind, the ultimate future of humanity.

"It is because our bodies share in this bodily life of Christ, the thing we anticipate and symbolize in the Eucharist, it is because we belong to this bodily work, that we conquer death, that we are able to live not for ourselves but by love, the love that Christ brings to us from God. And it is because of this that we celebrate the cross at Easter."

That is why the Easter Appearances get even better, first with Jesus appearing in the midst of his disciples when they are in the locked upper-room, and he asks them for something to eat, "That you may know that I am not a ghost, but a living being." Jesus' aim was not to fool the disciples on the road to Emmaus, but to enlighten them that the Eucharist they were about to celebrate, in their home, was the key to understanding this new life through the bread and wine become Body and Blood of Jesus.

And that is why, when Jesus and his disciples are on the shore eating the fish that he had just cooked, He asks Peter three times if he loves him. If the risen Christ, the body of Christ living by love, as Fr. Herbert writes, is the beginning of risen humankind, our ultimate future, then we need to respond in kind, that we love the Lord with all our heart, mind, and soul.