



Blessed Sacrament Parish
Homily by Father Mike Kuse
April 30, 2017 Third Sunday of Easter

Reading I Acts 2:14, 22-23

Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11

Reading II First Letter of St. Peter 1:17-21

Gospel Luke 24:13-35

Homily

What happens to us when we break bread together? We are here this morning because Jesus says, "This is my body and this is my blood and I want to share it with you." But he also reminds us that, "I created you in such a way that the Father and I will never let you just sit and rest. As long as you are alive you have to be on that path of life, you have to keep making a difference. If you are not making a difference for the good, you don't know how to break bread."

He is not talking about having a loaf of bread and pulling a hunk off and eating it. He is talking about our life, our faith, and who we are. He says, "Everybody is made in such a unique way that we always have something to serve to each other." It is a two-way street. Not only do you and I break bread for someone else, but they break bread for us.

So this morning, think about that. Think about that during the week. Who has given you an example of love that kept you going this week? Who is going to be in your path this week when you are going to have to do something to change their life? Whenever we exchange love and faith it's not a one-sided deal. Everybody experiences something and they walk away saying, "Wow! Thank you." Sometimes that is the one thing we forget to say to God. "Thank you. Thank you for constantly creating something new in our lives. "

Just on the human level, last evening I was at the Quincy Symphony concert. There was a young man from Culver-Stockton College over in Canton who sat down at the piano, there was not one sheet of music in front of him. He just sat down and played from memory. The fingers just touched the piano and that concert grand piano came alive. He could have done it all by himself, but the entire orchestra of 75 people or more blended in with him and they all knew how to weave in and weave out. And when that piece of music was done, no one could ask, "Did you like it? Would you like to stand up and say something?" That wasn't necessary. Everybody in the auditorium rose to their feet and gave applause for minutes and minutes recognizing that this young man could stand on his own. The symphony could stand on its own. But when they put it together, it does something to your heart.

All of us could have come in here this morning from 2 to 3 a.m. and you could have prayed, the Blessed Sacrament is here. You could have sat here for an hour and gone

home. But it is a little bit different when we come together for Eucharist and we see people who we know and we love. And we realize we are all seeking the same thing and what we are saying to each other is, "What happened to you this week? Just give it back to God so I can be enriched." I ask all of you to take 15 minutes and talk to somebody. Not the person sitting next to you. Get up and walk around the church and sit down and start talking to some individual. I guarantee you will say, "Wow, I had no idea what you have gone through, the joy that you've experienced, I didn't know anything about you or your family."

Well, if we did that we would all be here for 24 hours. But Jesus asks, "What goes on outside of these doors? Who changes us? Who makes the difference?" For those of you who are blessed with your children, your children make all the difference in the world. They never take away from the love a husband and wife have for each other, they just enhance your life. God could have just brought children into the world and said, "Oh, there's 500 — take your pick." He didn't do it that way. He says, "It will always be on my time. You absolutely have nothing to say about it. I will just give you the grace to love one another and through that love I will bring forth every child in the world. And it's up to you to break bread with that child."

We should not be strangers in the kingdom of God. We don't have to know everything about everybody. All we have to know is that: "The Spirit of God lives within you and when I see you or want you, it comes alive in me and I get the energy to move on." Many of you have made Cursillo and at the end when people have finished the weekend they ask those who have shared in the Cursillo, "What are you going to do about it?"

We probably should have a screen above each exit in church this morning reading: "Now that you have been here and you have shared Eucharist, you have heard the word of God, and Jesus has broken bread" — flashing on and off on the screen would be — "What are you going to do about it?" Maybe the sign should be flashing in every major intersection in Quincy. "What are you going to do about it?" If you are not going to do anything, Jesus says, "I feel sorry for you. I died for you, I rose to Heaven, but if it doesn't mean anything to you, maybe some day, somebody will wake you up. Because once you are awake, you cannot stop living."

The man who played the piano did not come out of nowhere and sit down and play. The symphony did not create an aura of beautiful music without having weeks of practicing together. But then God says, "I have chosen you all to be here. To listen, to play, just to create something out of the beauty of who I am." And it changed lives.

So think about who changed your life this past week. Whose life will you change in the coming week?

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