## Fr. Simon Sez



Divine Mercy Sunday: We celebrated the Sunday of Divine Mercy last Sunday. Many parishioners in both parishes took advantage of this ONLY weekend of the year when they received the same effects as "a second baptism" (a removal of sins and all punishment due to sin) by going to confession and receiving Holy Communion! We have information on these extraordinary graces of Divine

Mercy Sunday and how to pray it along with prayer cards available in the church gathering spaces. Please prayerfully consider this next year and encourage others to do the same!

Sacred Heart Parish Funeral Condolences: We celebrated Marlys Schneider's blessed life of 89 years at a funeral Mass for her yesterday, Saturday, April 22, 2023. She died April 15, 2023. We offer prayers for her and her family. Eternal rest grant unto her O' Lord.



**Bishop's Charity Fishing Tournaments:** These are scheduled for Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at Big Stone City - Douthitt Park and Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, at Pierre - Oahe Downstream Recreation Area (located 5 miles north of Pierre) to benefit seminarian education and formation. We are excited to gather again in support of the future priests of our diocese! Join us as a sponsor, make a donation or as a participant! To register your team contact the Catholic Community Foundation at 605-988-3765, or on-line at www.ccfesd.org.



## Emmaus and Us: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Easter



Acts 2:14, 22–28 Psalm 16:1–2, 5, 7–11 1 Peter 1:17–21 Luke 24:13–35

We should put ourselves in the shoes of the disciples in today's Gospel. Downcast and confused, they're making their way down the road,

unable to understand all the things that have occurred.

They know what they've seen—a prophet mighty in word and deed. They know what they were hoping for—that He would be the redeemer of Israel. But they don't know what to make of His violent death at the hands of their rulers.

They can't even recognize Jesus as He draws near to walk with them. He seems like just another foreigner visiting Jerusalem for the Passover.

Note that Jesus doesn't disclose His identity until they they describe how they found His tomb empty but "Him they did not see." That's how it is with us, too. Unless He revealed Himself, we would see only an empty tomb and a meaningless death.

How does Jesus make Himself known at Emmaus? First, He interprets "all the Scriptures" as referring to Him. In today's First Reading and Epistle, Peter also opens the Scriptures to proclaim the meaning of Christ's death according to the Father's "set plan"—foreknown before the foundation of the world.

Jesus is described as a new Moses and a new Passover lamb. He is the one of whom David sang in today's Psalm, whose soul was not abandoned to corruption but was shown the path of life.

After opening the Scriptures, Jesus at table took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples—exactly what He did at the Last Supper (see Luke 22:14–20).

In every Eucharist, we reenact that Easter Sunday at Emmaus. Jesus reveals Himself to us in our journey. He speaks to our hearts in the Scriptures. Then at the table of the altar, in the person of the priest, He breaks the bread.

The disciples begged Him, "Stay with us." So He does. Though He has vanished from our sight, in the Eucharist—as at Emmaus—we know Him in the breaking of the bread.

St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology (www.stpaulcenter.com)