

## A New Relationship

**Intro.** After one o'clock on June 20, the families and friends of six men are going to have to figure out a new relationship with them. *Now*, they are Jared, Clay, Mason, Chris, Mo and Anthony. *Then*, they will be **Fr. DeLeo**, **Fr. Ludwig**, **Fr. Knight**, **Fr. Culver**, **Fr. Hamaty** and **Fr. Wiggins**. Only family and close friends can presume first names, at least not without "Fr." preceding their names.

**I.** There is some confusion among the disciples in Galilee about what their relationship to the Lord is. Matthew tells us the disciples followed the instructions given to the two Marys at the empty tomb on Easter morn that the Lord would meet the disciples in Galilee. So, the disciples hurried to a familiar place, Galilee, where the journey first

began. Seems fitting that they see the resurrected Lord there for the last time. There is some confusion among the disciples as to the proper response, "They worshipped, but they doubted." Did some worship the Lord and some doubt? Or did they all worship but doubt at the same time? Probably yes. They lived for three years on the road with him as their teacher. Now he is different; he was dead and is live. Is he friend or God? After the crucifixion and the resurrection things were different, *life* was different for the disciples. With their experiences, none of them would ever be the same.

After some of the experiences we have had in *our* lives, life is different; *we* are different. Think of loves, friendships, births, accidents and illness. In the past eight weeks we were suddenly left on our own, abandoned as it were; cut off from each other

and our usual way of living. We take extraordinary precautions to protect the ones we love and ourselves.

**Concl.** Some of us have had powerful experiences with the *Lord* during this time. An intense feeling of God's presence our in prayer; or feeling his absence, not just in the Eucharist but in the scary sense that we feel we have been abandoned by him. Just before ordination, one of my classmates suddenly felt the absence of the Lord and thought maybe he should not be ordained. We supported him and he got through it and served well for many years. Being part of a miracle can change us or hearing his call to our various vocations in life. As the Lord ascended to heaven that day, the disciples couldn't help stare at the sky and wonder what their lives would be like.

They didn't have long to wait; Pentecost opened them up completely.

These times will change us whether we want them to or not. Just ask anyone who lived through the Great Depression, the war and previous recessions. If we are paying attention we can let the Lord lead us to new ways of living as he did the disciples. These moments can open for us a new relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As the Lord didn't abandon his disciples, neither will he abandon us. He ascended to heaven so we would continue his work today.

Fr. Michael Pendergraft

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