

A GIFT OF EASTER IS THAT THE RISEN CHRIST NEVER STOPS WALKING WITH US

Third Sunday of Easter – 23 April 2023



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One of the pilgrimage sites in Spain is "Camino de Santiago," which means "The Way to Santiago." In 2015, I had the special opportunity to walk the Camino pilgrimage, covering over 850km in around 40 days. Despite our religious differences, numerous pilgrims walked with me on this journey. I gained three significant insights into life at the end of this pilgrimage.

Firstly, our life is like an ongoing walk. We consistently move forward, at our own pace, to reach our full human potential.

Secondly, we are not alone on our journey. I encountered pilgrims and tourists from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Despite our differences, we walked together.

Finally, on our journey of life, we never stop walking.

Even after reaching the final point of the Camino pilgrimage, there were two signs that indicated the new directions: 1) Fatima, Portugal, and 2) Our own life.

The latter left a profound impact on me as I felt that my journey would continue in different areas of my life with God's Spirit.

Today's Word of God draws us to another pilgrimage site. The two disciples were walking to Emmaus after the crucifixion of Jesus, feeling lost and confused. Suddenly, Jesus appeared and walked with them, listening to their voices and conforming to their pace. Our Lord did not push them to recognize him or believe in the good news of Salvation. He walked with

them and shared his body, which awakened them. Jesus disappeared, but the two disciples felt accompanied by Christ in Spirit.

The Word of God delivers another clear Easter message: Jesus never stops walking with us, showing us the path of life. The force of death or turmoil cannot stop Jesus from continuously walking with us. We are not alone, even if we may feel left or lonely. This Sunday's Psalm (Psalm 15) sings about Jesus as the Way: "Lord, you will show us the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence." Jesus directs our hearts and accompanies us. As Jesus did with the two disciples in Emmaus, he shows his significant way of walking with us: Eucharist. By taking his body and blood, we feel accompanied by him beyond Mass. As Jesus walks with us, it is our responsibility to find those who need our presence.

Brothers and sisters, the risen Christ shows us that he never stops walking with us. He approaches us to walk with us even though we may have detached ourselves from him in the past. Let us not be afraid of disillusionment or worry, or any other forces that are likely to distract us from feeling Jesus' love. Let us check if we are fully open to him walking with us, or if we are reluctant to be accompanied by him. In celebrating the Easter season, let us ask for God's continuous guidance so that we may continue to feel accompanied by our friend, Jesus.

Peace
Deacon Minje Kim

Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/042323.cfm>



The Scallop Shell – marks the way on the Camino de Santiago