

Real Resurrection of the Soul
Gospel Reading for April 20, 2017
Thursday of Holy Week
Luke 24: 35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognized Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, and they stood there dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

I. The Historical and Transcendent Event (CCC)
The Appearances of the Risen One

644 *Even when faced with the reality of the risen Jesus the disciples are still doubtful, so impossible did the thing seem: they thought they were seeing a ghost. "In their joy they were still disbelieving and still wondering."⁵⁰⁷ Thomas will also experience the test of doubt and St. Matthew relates that during the risen Lord's last appearance in Galilee "some doubted."⁵⁰⁸ Therefore the hypothesis that the Resurrection was produced by the apostles' faith (or credulity) will not hold up.*

On the contrary their faith in the Resurrection was born, under the action of divine grace, from their direct experience of the reality of the risen Jesus. The condition of Christ's risen humanity

645 By means of touch and the sharing of a meal, the risen Jesus establishes direct contact with his disciples. He invites them in this way to recognize that he is not a ghost and above all to verify that the risen body in which he appears to them is the same body that had been tortured and crucified, for it still bears the traces of his passion.⁵⁰⁹ Yet at the same time this authentic, real body possesses the new properties of a glorious body: not limited by space and time but able to be present how and when he wills; for Christ's humanity can no longer be confined to earth and belongs henceforth only to the Father's divine realm.⁵¹⁰ For this reason too the risen Jesus enjoys the sovereign freedom of appearing as he wishes: in the guise of a gardener or in other forms familiar to his disciples, precisely to awaken their faith.⁵¹¹

From the Book of Heaven

V36 – Apr. 20, 1938 - After this, I continued my round in all that Our Lord did on earth and I stopped in the Act of Resurrection. What Triumph, what Glory. Heaven poured Itself on earth to be spectator of such a great Glory. My beloved Jesus said: "My daughter, in My Resurrection, the right was given to creatures to Rise Again in Me to New Life. It was the Confirmation, the Seal of My whole Life, My Works and My Words. If I came on earth it was to give to each and every one My Resurrection, as their own—to give them Life and make them Rise Again in My own Resurrection. But do you want to know where is the Real Resurrection of the creature? Not in the end of her days, but while she is still living on earth. One who Lives in My Will Rises Again to Light and says: 'My night is over.' She Rises Again in the Love of her Creator, so that there is no more cold or snow for her, but the smile of the Heavenly Spring; she Rises Again to Sanctity, that puts in rushed flight all weaknesses, miseries and passions; she Rises Again to all that is Heaven, and if she looks at the earth, Heaven and sun, she does it to find the Works of her Creator—to take the opportunity to narrate to Him His Glory and His long Love Story.

"Therefore, one who Lives in My Will can say, as the Angel said to the holy women on the way to the Sepulcher, 'He is risen. He is not here any more.' One who Lives in My Will can also say, 'My will is not with me any longer—it is Risen Again in the Fiat.' And if the circumstances of life, opportunities and sufferings surround the creature, as if they were looking for her will, she can answer: 'My will is Risen Again; it is not in my power anymore. I possess, in exchange, the Divine Will, and I want to cover with Its Light all things around me—circumstances and

sufferings, to make them like many Divine Conquests.' The soul who Lives in Our Will finds Life in the Acts of her Jesus, and as always, in this Life, she finds Our Operating, Conquering, Triumphant Will. She gives us so much Glory that Heaven cannot contain it. Therefore, Live always in Our Will—never leave it, if you want to be Our Triumph and Our Glory."

FIAT!