

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John  
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,  
April 18, 2021**

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE



In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples are gathered together as they listen to Cleopas and his companion recount how they met the Risen Lord on the road to Emmaus.

Suddenly, the Lord appears among them. We are told, "they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost."

The Lord, aware of their inability to comprehend his most unexpected presence, tries to help them understand that he is real and risen. "Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have."

He then asks for food. "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. Ghosts do not eat, but living people do, risen people do!

The Risen Lord explains that what happened to him was in accord with God's plan. "The Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

By those words, the Risen Lord commissions his disciples to witness to the truth of the Gospel, to show humanity the way to peace and fulfillment, and to proclaim that for those who accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord, death is not annihilation but the pathway to an eternal life of joy.

But many people refuse to accept the resurrection of Jesus and the truth of the Gospel not because they do not want to believe, but because it all seems just too good to be true.

But it is. It's all true. That is the amazing message of Easter!

May the Risen Lord bless us with his presence and peace during this Easter Season,

Father John Carlos