

Dear Padre,

Why couldn't the disciples recognize Jesus after the resurrection? Do you think we would recognize Jesus if he came back today?

Before the resurrection, Jesus likely would have suffered the ravages of illness and lack of proper nutrition that all the people of his time were subject to. After the resurrection, Jesus showed he was exalted with the very power of God. Even his physical appearance had changed.

In view of his glorified appearance, the disciples were able to recognize Jesus with the aid of his marks of the passion (John 20:20). No one would go to the extreme of putting nails through his own hands and feet and thrust a spear into his side to pretend he was Jesus! He bore those marks, so he *had* to be the Lord.

Another purpose of showing his disciples his glorified body was to assure them we would undergo a similar glorification. In the resurrection we shall be completely changed and perfected in our humanity (1 Corinthians 15:52).

We are sometimes slow to recognize our Lord in the ways he indicated he would be with us today:

in the Eucharist (John 6:53); in the poor (Matthew 25:40); in his body, the Church (1 Corinthians 12:12). Coming to recognize him among us in these ways today will ensure we are more like him in our resurrection.

—Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSSR
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In the poor, Jesus is with us. Here, volunteers work at a food pantry in Nashville.



WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

We have all had difficult moments in life, dark moments in which we walked in sadness, pensive, without horizons, with only a wall before us. And Jesus is always beside us to give us hope, to warm our hearts and to say: "Go ahead, I am with you. Go ahead."

—GENERAL AUDIENCE, MAY 24, 2017

Calendar

Monday

APRIL 27

Easter Weekday

Acts 6:8–15

Jn 6:22–29

Tuesday

APRIL 28

Easter Weekday

Acts 7:51—8:1a

Jn 6:30–35

Wednesday

APRIL 29

St. Catherine of Siena,

Virgin and Doctor

of the Church

Acts 8:1b–8

Jn 6:35–40

Thursday

APRIL 30

Easter Weekday

Acts 8:26–40

Jn 6:44–51

Friday

MAY 1

Easter Weekday

Acts 9:1–20

Jn 6:52–59

Saturday

MAY 2

St. Athanasius,

Bishop and Doctor

of the Church

Acts 9:31–42

Jn 6:60–69

Sunday

MAY 3

Fourth Sunday

of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

1 Pt 2:20b–25

Jn 10:1–10