



The Samaritan woman, having been healed of her of the wounds, she “put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I have done; could this be the Christ?' (Jn 4:28-29). The two disciples, John and Andrew, who went and stayed with Jesus for the rest of the day, would like to share this experience with others. “The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother and say to him, 'We have found the Messiah' and he took Simon to Jesus” (Jn 1:41-42a. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus who were running away from Jerusalem on the day of the resurrection recognized the Lord at the breaking of the bread. “They set out *that instant* and returned to Jerusalem. [There]... they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread” (Lk 24:33-35).

When Pope Paul VI visited Uganda in 1964, it was the Mission Sunday, and on this occasion he canonised the 22 martyrs of Uganda. In his homily the Pope said: “The church in Africa, from a mission oriented church, has to become a missionary church.” This simply means that the Christian life is not to be centred around the physical church and the Sunday liturgy alone. We need to live and express our faith where we are: at home, in the streets, in our neighbourhood, and at the work-place. So, how can we become a missionary church?

*1. Relational Ministry:* Jesus begins his ministry with the two disciples by building a relationship. One way we can express our own experience of God in Jesus in listening/caring ministry. May be, some of us called to this type of ministry. In general, we can make our parish community more friendly, familial and cordial.

*2. Biblical Ministry:* Having met the two disciples on their ground, and having listened to their narration of the events of the Holy Week, it is time now for tough love! Using the scriptures, he interprets the events of their lives in the light of faith. He offers them the Good News that even amidst the confusion of the previous week, God was still in control. May be some of us called to this type of ministry: to form Bible study groups; to use the Bible meaningfully in our lives.

*3. Catechetical Ministry:* Having assured of their invitation to Him to stay with them, Jesus now takes them to a process of catechesis. Jesus uses a liturgical act to carry out this process. Then their eyes were opened. Mere adherence to the rubrics of the liturgy may not guarantee such a religious experience, though some rubrics may still be needed to preserve the mystery aspect of the liturgy. Both, the faith explained and the faith celebrated, have to be participatory. May be, some of us called to contribute more tangibly in the parish catechetical and liturgical activities! But surely all of us are invited to make a better use of the catechetical & liturgical services offered by our parish community.

*4. Peer Ministry – Creating waves:* Having experienced Jesus as the Risen Lord, Cleopas and his companion cannot withhold their conviction. They undertake the journey of eleven kilometers that very night to share their experience with others. They want to restore hope among their fellow disciples. The Word of God goes in a hurry. The cycle of Christ experience continues.