



## What Will It Take?

**W**hat will it take for the early followers of Jesus to recognize him in their midst?

Today's Gospel recounts yet another episode of confusion and unbelief. They had an extraordinary experience that startled and terrified them. Even though other disciples reported having come upon the risen Lord, they didn't realize that it was also he they were encountering. Such an unusual experience might have left them doubtful about the Lord's presence, but the reports of others should have thrown light on the reality of their own experiences. Are they like Thomas, who was unwilling to take the word of others but demanded his own tangible experience of the risen Lord?

However, every account of the risen Lord's appearance reports that his identity is initially hidden. They only knew that it was him when he revealed himself. Mary recognized him when he called her

name (John 20:16); the couple in Emmaus knew him in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:31); even Paul on the road to Damascus only understood who the Lord was when he revealed his name (Acts 9:3).

And what about us? What will it take for us to recognize the risen Lord in our midst? Do we also need concrete evidence? Will it only happen if we have a meal with him? But isn't that exactly what the Eucharist is—a meal with the risen Lord?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### For Reflection

- ★ *Our faith tells us that the risen Lord is in our midst. Pray that you might recognize him in your family members or in your workplace.*
- ★ *What can you do for the needy in your society with whom Christ identifies?*



*[Jesus] asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.*

LUKE 24:41–43

# Dear Padre,

**I thought detraction was a sin only if what you're saying about someone isn't true, but my priest says it's a sin even if it is true. What do you say?**

**W**e commit the sin of *detraction* when we, “without objectively valid reason, disclose another’s faults and failings to persons who did not know them” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2477).

Part of respecting human dignity is to recognize that others have a right to their good name and reputation. We ought not to damage those goods carelessly, which is what happens when we engage in detraction.

We *slander* or commit *calumny* when we speak or spread negative falsehoods about someone (see CCC 2479). But detraction can happen even when we speak the truth.

Sometimes it's objectively necessary to speak harsh truths about another person. For example, when we observe an adult engaged in inappropriate behavior with a child, we report it to the authorities because protection of vulnerable children outweighs concern over any adult's reputation.

So truth-telling when clear communication of the truth is necessary is not detraction, even if it does damage another's reputation. However, carelessly sharing a true story or detail that doesn't need telling is detraction, and it's sinful.

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## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*We know that slander always kills. This “diabolical cancer” that arises from the desire to destroy the reputation of a person also attacks the ecclesial body and seriously damages it when, as a result of malicious interests or to cover up one’s own inadequacies, people unite to denigrate someone.*

GENERAL AUDIENCE, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019



## Calendar

### Monday

APRIL 19

Easter Weekday

Acts 6:8–15

Jn 6:22–29

### Tuesday

APRIL 20

Easter Weekday

Acts 7:51–8:1a

Jn 6:30–35

### Wednesday

APRIL 21

Easter Weekday

Acts 8:1b–8

Jn 6:35–40

### Thursday

APRIL 22

Easter Weekday

Acts 8:26–40

Jn 6:44–51

### Friday

APRIL 23

Easter Weekday

Acts 9:1–20

Jn 6:52–59

### Saturday

APRIL 24

Easter Weekday

Acts 9:31–42

Jn 6:60–69

### Sunday

APRIL 25

Fourth Sunday

of Easter

Acts 4:8–12

1 Jn 3:1–2

Jn 10:11–18