

**April 28, 2020-Tuesday, Third Week of Easter**

### **Society of St. Peter the Apostle**

The Society of St. Peter the Apostle supports the education and formation of priests and religious in developing countries. It was founded in 1889 in Caen, France, by Stephanie Bigard and her daughter Jeanne.

In 1878, Stephanie's husband committed suicide, and later her son Rene was killed. After these tragedies, Stephanie and her daughter found comfort in their faith, and began to focus their energy on helping the missions.

In 1888, they received a letter from a French missionary soliciting money to build a church in Kyoto, Japan. Then Bishop Jules-Alphonse Cousin of Nagasaki, Japan, contacted them for funds to educate seminarians. The situation was so dire, he wrote, that he was forced to turn away young men hoping to become priests.

The mother and daughter began raising money for both appeals. They sold possessions, and Jeanne even sold her home and donated her dowry. The Bigards' efforts became known as the Society of St. Peter the Apostle. Soon they were traveling throughout Europe to raise funds for other seminaries in Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Korea and China.

Stephanie Bigard died in 1903; two years later, ill health forced Jeanne Bigard to step down from leadership of the society. Fifteen years later, its central office was moved to Rome. In 1922, Pope Pius XI proclaimed the society "pontifical," with the task of supporting seminaries in mission dioceses. Today approximately 30,000 seminarians and 10,000 religious novices receive assistance from the society.

Jeanne Bigard died on this day in 1934.

*Jesus asked the two, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazorene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel."*  
(Luke 24:17-21)

The disciples didn't recognize Jesus in some dramatic meeting, as when Peter spotted him on the shore. They recognized him "in the breaking of bread."

That is the kind of presence I can experience in expected and unexpected ways, and know that he risen Lord is here with me today.

Jesus has gone through death to the other side so that he can be even closer to his disciples than he was before his death.

And Jesus is with me as well. He is there all the time. He never abandons me. He is there to help me, to give me courage, to show me the way, to help me deal with problems.

We've all got problems in our lives and to know that the Lord is with me through these kinds of things can make a huge difference.

I know I'm not alone.

Spent some quiet time with the Lord