

Easter Message 2026

The story of the Road to Emmaus is found in Luke 24:13-35 and occurs on the same day as Jesus' resurrection, shortly after the women discovered the empty tomb and reported seeing angels who announced that Jesus was alive. Two disciples, one named Cleopas and the other unnamed, were walking from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles away. They were discussing the recent events of Jesus' crucifixion and the reports of His resurrection, feeling confused and disheartened.

The disciples' anxiety is one that many of us feel these days at times. The embroiled events of war and its consequences worldwide were the subject of Pope Leo's comments when he stated, "Brothers and sisters, this is our God: Jesus, King of Peace, who rejects war, whom no one can use to justify war." The growing polarization and divisiveness in our communities contradict our deepest hopes for our families and communities.

The Xaverian Missionaries USA work in 21 countries worldwide, daily encountering the ripple effects of global disorder that affect school fees, gas and food prices, and simple ways to eke out a living from day to day. The government's decision to cut billions in funding has directly affected Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services, shutting out the poorest in many communities. The pall of doubt around the real effects of global climate change introduces new uncertainty for communities, as rising sea levels and larger storms destroy homes and crops.

But through all of us, where are we aware of the redemption of the cross, if it is not in the darkest corners of the earth? It is in these very places where the power of the cross of Christ looms and the testing ground where our courage and strength are released through our churches, communities, and into every corner of the globe. Renewed resolve to make a difference comes from the resurrected Christ, who shows once again that hope is stronger than even death itself.

May this Easter enliven our global church, in every culture, through our encounter with all peoples of good faith, an unceasing and relentless hope, as we wait a new heaven and a new earth.

Fr. Carl Chudy, SX