

### Third Sunday of Easter

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services began issuing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals in 2012. This created the possibility for hundreds of thousands of qualifying immigrants under the age of 30 to obtain legal status in the United States for two years. Some renewal information is available on line for those whose cases were processed before August 15, 2012. But for the vast majority of deferred action immigrants, renewal information is not yet available. This week members of our staff visited with a lawyer to learn more about the situation. We were advised that the proper renewal procedures for most people are still unknown at this time. Immigrants should beware that unscrupulous people may try to charge them thousands of dollars, and promise them a renewal that is impossible to obtain right now. More important is to accumulate documentation about education, employment, and activities, and to wait for further instructions. We should be hopeful, but cautious.**

**After the resurrection of Jesus, the first disciples were hopeful but cautious. They were hoping that Jesus would be the one to redeem Israel, but when he was crucified, they were cautious - even when angels announced to some women that Jesus was alive. They were so cautious that they did not even recognize Jesus walking with them.**

**On the road to Emmaus, two disciples walking away from Jerusalem talked with a stranger about Jesus, not knowing that this stranger was the risen Jesus. He interpreted the scriptures for them, showing them all the passages that pointed the way to the promised resurrection. But they recognized him only when he sat at table with them, took bread, said the blessing, broke it and gave it to them. In that instant, they knew that they were in the presence of the risen Christ. Then he disappeared.**

**My brothers and sisters, we often do not recognize Jesus when he walks with us along the road. He is present in the Word - when we read the bible, listen to other people, and learn about our faith. He is present to us in our actions - when we help others, fulfill our responsibilities for our families, and especially when we participate in the eucharist. When we gather here on Sundays, we are like the disciples on the road to Emmaus. We listen to the Word of God, which tells us about Christ. We share the bread of life and drink the cup of salvation. When we gather here, when we sit at this table, take bread, say the blessing, break it and receive it, we are in the presence of the risen Christ. He will open our eyes to recognize where he is, and where he is not. He will help us distinguish those who should make us hopeful, from those who should make us cautious. He came to be with us like an immigrant from another place, and when we walk along the road of life, he is still our companion on the way.**