



Office of the Vice President for Mission

TO: The Gonzaga Community
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Bumping into God (The Resurrection Today)

In his Easter Vigil homily last Saturday, Pope Francis talked about the newness of God. At any moment in our lives, often unexpectedly and in the strangest circumstances, something fresh flashes from somewhere, a newness that catches our attention and curiosity. Pope Francis wisely notes, however, that we are not always ready for these moments. In fact they can be frightening. He says, “Dear brothers and sisters, we are afraid of God's surprises! [God] always surprises us! The Lord is like that.”

In Jesuit jargon, we would call such moments opportunities to “find God in all things”. We **bump into God** in the circumstances of our daily lives.

After Jesus’ resurrection the disciples used to bump into Jesus at unexpected times and in unexpected ways. Mary of Magdala thought he was a gardener. The disciples on the road to Emmaus were making their way towards home after the confusing events in Jerusalem and met a perfect stranger who explained these events to them and turned out to be Jesus. The apostles, the very night of the resurrection, had locked themselves in the upper room out of fear and all of a sudden there he was. Peter and some of the others had given up the wait and gone fishing; there he was on the bank of Lake Tiberias cooking breakfast for them. In all these appearances Jesus came to them wherever they happened to be and in whatever circumstances. For the most part they did not recognize him as first, and only did recognize him when faith opened their eyes to who he was.

Appearances like these still happen. We bump into God every day. These are the surprises Pope Francis is talking about. Sometimes we recognize them for what they are right away, and at other times we only do so in retrospect. Times for prayerful reflection, like next week’s Retreat for Busy People, provide such occasions, as do other retreat offerings, such as SEEL.

To sign up for the Busy Person’s Retreat (dates), please contact Fr. George Morris at x6019.