

The Resurrection appearances - Specific aspects

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."



20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit.

23 Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John 20)

Why wounds?

- They keep us sensitive
- To be co-redeemers with Christ (see Colossians 1:23)
- They remind us to rely on God's power and not our own (2 Cor 4:7)



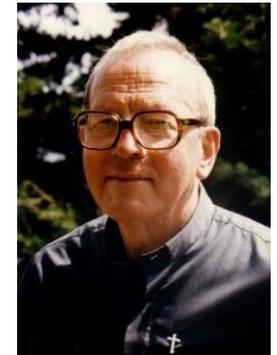
"In front of more sin, there is more love of God. The more the mercy of God is poured out over the misery of the sinner who has a very severe hemorrhage! God gives you more blood, more life so you will live." *Jaime Bonet, FMVD*



"I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and an arrogant man, but I have been mercifully treated because I acted out of ignorance in my unbelief." St Paul (*1 Timothy 1:13*)

What message would you give to the Fraternity this Easter?

I would tell them to reproduce the mission of all those chosen by Christ. Everyone, women as well as men. In the gospel, although the names of the apostles are only of men, there are women who followed him very well; to the cross, to the end. Women were the first to preach the resurrection. Everyone has to preach. It is a mandate: "Go throughout the world and make disciples (cf. Mt 28,19-20) This is the mission of the Fraternity: to do what the Risen Christ commands. *Jaime Bonet, FMVD, Easter 2005*



- **Reflection:** *Pray with John 20:19-23, Acts 2:42-47*
- 1. What signs of newness have you seen outside and inside?
- 2. What does it mean for you the action of Jesus breathing on his disciples?
- 3. How has God treated you mercifully and where / to whom are you called to be merciful?