

Imagine for a moment: Someone we love dies. Later, this person suddenly appears. What would be our reaction? What would we do?

If it were my brother, Bernard, I might stare....and then say something like, "Bernard? Is it you?" If it were, I would be ecstatic and full of joy. I would embrace and cling to him.

We don't expect to see our deceased loved ones. This was true for the Apostles. They saw Jesus, their friend and loved one, crucified, died and buried.

In the Gospel, the Apostles are huddled in the Upper Room. They are scared, anxious and full of grief. They are disoriented, confused, and so very, very sad. Without warning, without hope and without any inkling.....suddenly....they experience the presence of Jesus....alive. They see Him with their own eyes. This is not their imagination playing tricks on them. This is Jesus....for real.

Unbelievable! Incredible! Wonderful! The Apostles are full of joy. We would expect nothing less.

This week pay attention to those whom we see. Rejoice upon seeing them. One day each of us will see alive our Risen Lord and our loved ones who have died. Our joy will be complete.

My sisters and brothers: Abundant joy be yours this week!