

It is a time to rejoice in new releases of energy, new possibilities, and the gift of a new injection of youthfulness in some parts.

A time when new wine was bursting out of old wineskins. The comfortable securities and stabilities of an earlier time had passed.

The flickering candles of new hope, of confidence, of life overtaking death seemed to glow brighter as our appreciation of the darkness deepened.

It was as if we were seeing everything anew, seeing with new eyes.

As we got in touch with our fractured humanity, we found ourselves touching divinity.

We had discovered anew that our way to God as Christian Brothers, our distinctive way of living and loving, was to take literally the meaning of relating as brothers.

Being opened, we found ourselves turning instinctively to identity with the pains and burdens felt in our whole earth community. Our hearts burning with this new energy, we felt a renewed fire for mission.

In the light of your experience during this time of Retreat, can you read these familiar sentences anew?



ON THE JOURNEY

On the journey seek the light of day; on the journey, heaven's blessing we pray
On the journey, may God's fortune descend; we seek the Lord of the way.

On the journey, seeing shelter from storms; on the journey, safe be the tide

On the journey, shield us from darkness and harm; God be the hope of our life.

The sun shall rise, and let its shadow fall; deep in the night all people hear God's call.

Rejoice, rejoice, let all the hearts be free; rejoice, rejoice, let all the world believe.

The risen Lord now calls us, to prosper in his peace.

On the journey, calling races and creeds; on the journey crossing mountains and streams,

On the journey, give thanks for all we receive; God of the heavens and seas.

On the journey, sharing bread now for all; on the journey, we rest in sleep

On the journey, we see your beauty at dawn; great is the heart of our God.

the Road

We are always somewhere
on the road to Emmaus,
heads bowed against the sting
of wind-whipped sand.
Concerned with making miles
before the end of day
we do not always hear
the summons sent to us.
What does it mean to realize
resurrection from the dead?
The answer is never
all that clear and the road
makes so many twists and turns
through Gaza, Guatemala,
Colombia, Rwanda, Israel and
Sudan.

All we really know is that
we must follow where it leads
and only stop to make repairs
along the way
until we meet once again
in Galilee.