

Sunday: 18 April 2010

3rd Sunday of Easter

Reading 1 : Acts 5:27-32

Psalm: 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

Reading 2 : Rev 5:11-14

Gospel Reading: Jn 21:1-19

Meditation:

Why didn't the apostles immediately recognize the Lord when he greeted them at the Sea of Tiberias? It was at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee when the Lord dramatically approached Peter in his fishing boat after a futile night of fishing and commanded him to lower his nets (see Luke 5:4-11). After the miraculous catch, Jesus told Peter that he would be 'catching people' for the kingdom of God. Now Jesus repeats the same miracle. John, the beloved disciple, is the first to recognize the Lord. Peter impulsively leaps from the boat and runs to the Lord. The Lord is ever ready to renew us in faith and to give us fresh hope in his promises.

Skeptics who disbelieve the resurrection say the disciples only saw a vision of Jesus. The gospels, however, give us a vivid picture of the reality of the resurrection. Jesus went out of his way to offer his disciples various proofs of his resurrection – that he is real and true flesh, not just a spirit or ghost. In his third appearance to the apostles, Jesus performed the miraculous catch of fish. The Lord Jesus reveals himself to each of us as we open our hearts to receive his word.

Why did Jesus question Peter's love and fidelity three times in front of the other apostles? It must have caused Peter pain and sorrow since he had publicly denied Jesus three times. Now Peter, full of remorse and humility, unequivocally stated that he loved his master and was willing to serve him whatever it might cost. When Jesus asks him "do you love me more than these?" he may have pointed to the boats, nets and catch of fish. He may have challenged Peter to abandon his work for the task of shepherding God's people. Jesus also may have pointed to the other disciples and to Peter's previous boast: "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away" (Matthew 26:33). Peter now makes no boast or comparison but humbly responds: "You know I love you".

Question for Community Faith Sharing:

1. Do you recognize the Lord's presence in your life and do you receive his word with faith?
2. Is the Lord calling you to love Him 'more'; that is unconditionally?

Life is not always where we think it is. When changes disturb us we need to remember that Jesus may well be showing us where we are really meant to be where success really is for us.