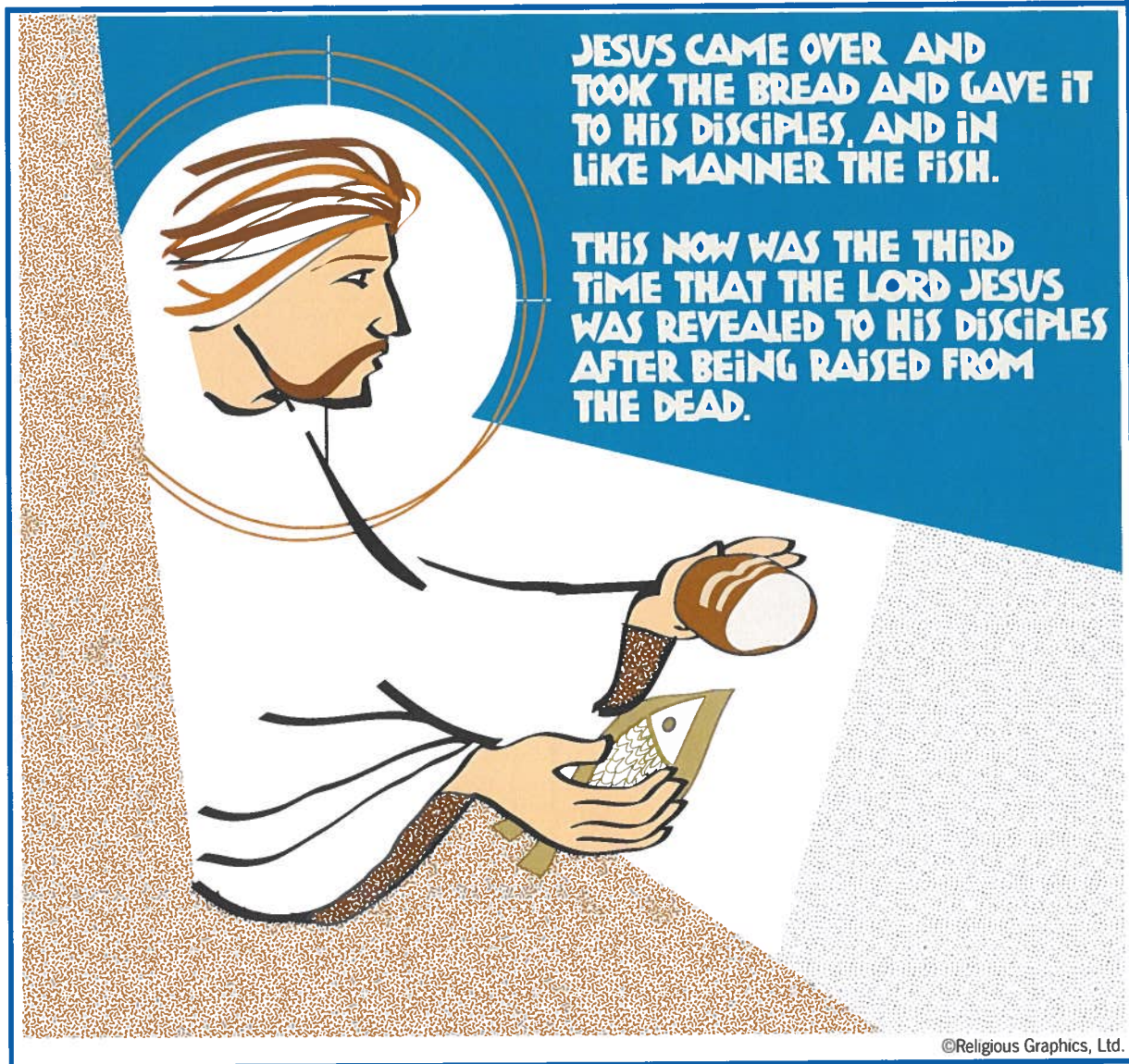


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of**  
**St. Margaret Mary, Herscher**  
**St. James the Apostle, Irwin**  
**Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

**3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**MAY 3-4 , 2025**



**Weekend Masses:**

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

**Confessions:**

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun. 8:35-8:50 am

**Church Mailing Address:** 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941

**Phone:** 815-426-2550

**Quotable:** "As salt is needed for all kinds of foods, so humility is needed for all kinds of virtues. "

—Saint Isaac the Syrian

**4th Sunday of Easter**

**May 10-11, 2025**

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, May 10 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, May 11 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, May 11 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, May 11 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Neitzke	Fr. Ron Neitzke Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Neitzke Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Neitzke
Ushers	Roger Jensen Gery Wright Dave Emling Todd Datweiler	Kyle Ferris David Kirkpatrick	Dallas Ferris Arlen Hansen Bob Buente Jeff Martin	Wayne Bisaillon Darren Lovell Joe Smolkovich Larry Wolles
Lector	Rob Landeck	Mike Hertz	Jeff O'Connor	Steve Jacob
Eucharistic Minister				Lynda Wolles
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Christine Forsythe R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Stacie Powers

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, May 5 (SMM)**

**8:00 am** +Mary Polvere (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

**Tuesday, May 6 (SH)**

**8:00 am** +Carson Cross (The Family)

**Wednesday, May 7 (SJ)**

**8:00 am (SJ)** +Karen Batdorf (Hertz Family)

**Friday, May 9 (SMM)**

**8:00 am** +Madonna Hoffman (Kimberly/Lavonne Maurseth)

**Saturday, May 10 (SMM)**

**5:00 pm** +Ann Wheeler (Rhonda Berns)  
+Tom Lane (Mariann Lane)

**Sunday, May 11**

**7:30 am (SH)** +Zeb Pfeiffer (Dale/Marilyn Pfeiffer)  
+Carson Cross (Don/Pat/James Brouillet)

**9:00am (SJ)** +Jean Devine (Lenny/Terri Devine)  
+Jared Devine (Lenny/Terri Devine)

**10:30 am (SMM) For All the Parish Family**

**A Look Ahead**

**Sunday, May 4**—Youth Mass, May Crowning & Last Class at St. James

**Tuesday, May 6**—SMM Parish Council 7pm

**Monday, May 12**—SH CCW meeting 6:30

**May 17/18**— Fr. Allam's Mission Appeal

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm\_sja\_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – [www.triparishcatholics.org](http://www.triparishcatholics.org)

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

**Tri Parish Church office** –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisaillon 426-2550

**Bulletin** – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

**Religious Education** –

St. MM – Jill Fulton [jfulton.stmm@gmail.com](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga [tosenga81@gmail.com](mailto:tosenga81@gmail.com)

**Parish Nurse** – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

**Prayer Line**—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 [jdstreefarms@aol.com](mailto:jdstreefarms@aol.com)

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)

Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

**Question of the Week**

When have I found the courage to speak out on behalf of what I believe?



## Collections Weekend of April 26-27 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,585 Home Mission—\$383  
 St. James—\$ 1,186 Mome Mission—\$411  
 Sacred Heart—\$1,161 Home Mission—\$287

Thank you for your generosity!

### Reflection The One Medicine

Searching for a cure. Where it comes from doesn't matter. Maybe it will be from this, and maybe it will be from that, and maybe it will be from everything together, and maybe it will be from none of those, but your attitude and enthusiasm, being one with God will heal you



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
 KYLE FERRIS, SON OF  
 CONNIE AND DARYL FERRIS  
 AND  
 ALLIE KOHL, DAUGHTER OF  
 LISA AND MATT PATCHETT  
 AND  
 JASON AND SHEILA KOHL  
 WHO WERE JOINED IN HOLY MATRIMONY  
 ON SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025  
 AT SACRED HEART, GOODRICH

All ladies interested in attending the Kankakee Deanery Council of Catholic Women Spring Institute on Wed., June 5 should sign up in the entrance of their church. The cost will be split between the attendee and their CCW. Individual cost will be \$11 with checks being made out to your parish. The deadline to sign up is May 11.

### Gospel Shorts The Love Test

Three times the resurrected Christ challenged Peter with these words: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Why, one wonders, was Jesus so insistent on repeating the question?

We cannot dismiss the fact that Peter had denied that he was a follower of Christ. Perhaps Jesus wanted to be sure that he could trust Peter to be faithful. Another more likely reason was that Jesus had great future plans for Peter as a leader of the Church. Jesus wanted to make certain that Peter's love was strong and true. Thankfully, it was. Peter served Christ without wavering until he was martyred.

One wonders how we would fare if Christ examined our love for him. A true follower will always meet Christ's love test.

Many thanks for the cards, phone calls, mass intentions, comforting home visits, and donations in memory of Mary Landeck Polvere, our loving daughter and sister. God bless Mary and the parishioners of St. Margaret Mary Parish,  
 Jackie Landeck Eberle, Mike Landeck, Scott & Christie Landeck, and Rob and Gayle Landeck.

### Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James

⇒ All are invited to Donut Sunday following mass on May 18th. If you'd like to bring a pastry/breakfast item to share please sign up on the bulletin board in the hall.

Sacred Heart-

⇒ The week of May 4th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for Viola Parsons as she receives her First Holy Communion and the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of Dick Fitch.

⇒ CCW meeting will be held Monday, May 12 at 6:30pm. Hostesses are Kate Cloonen and Terri Weakley.

⇒ We will again be honoring mothers for Mothers' Day. White carnations represent pure love and will be honoring deceased mothers. Pink are a symbol of gratitude and admiration and are honoring living mothers. Cost is \$1.25 per flower. Checks to Sacred Heart Church. Place the names and money in envelopes provided. Just write same if nothing has changed from last year.

All Parishes—

⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

⇒ The Kankakee Deanery Council of Catholic Women Spring Institute will be held at Maternity BVM on Wednesday, June 5, 2025. Registration will begin at 5:00 pm followed by mass and dinner. For more information or to sign up for this event, please contact your CCW President.



### Current Status for 2025 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
Sacred Heart	\$6,600	\$7,350	\$4,350
St. James	\$9,700	\$6,180	\$5,993
St. MM	\$8,900	\$4,950	\$4,750

Sign in Church Parking Lot

Reserved for  
 Pastor

Unauthorized  
 Cars will be  
 Struck by  
 Lightning

**Obscure saint of the week: St. Florian of Lorch (May 4)** was a third century officer in Roman army stationed in modern Austria. He was the military administrator of the town of Noricum and a closet Christian. He was said to have stopped a town from burning by praying and throwing a single bucket of water on the blaze, thus his association with firefighters and those who protect us from fire, including chimney sweeps. When ordered to execute a group of Christians during the persecutions of Diocletian, he refused and professed his own faith. He was a martyr.



**Other obscure saint of the week: St. Firminus of Verdun** was born to the land-owning nobility. Firminus became the bishop of Verdun, France from 486 to 502, a time of religious changes, political turmoil, and war. He is connected to the battle of Tolbiac in 496 which led to the conversion to the Christianity of Clovis, king of the Franks. He convinced Clovis to peacefully enter the city instead of allowing his men to loot the place, which increased the level of trust the locals had in him, and in the faith. It's possible that he died during a later revolt of the Verdunese against the Franks, but no certain records have survived.

### The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

After this, Jesus appeared again to the disciples, this time at the Tiberias Sea (the Sea of Galilee). This is how he did it: Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed "Twin"), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the brothers Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. Simon Peter announced, "I'm going fishing."

The rest of them replied, "We're going with you." They went out and got in the boat. They caught nothing that night. When the sun came up, Jesus was standing on the beach, but they didn't recognize him.

Jesus spoke to them: "Good morning! Did you catch anything for breakfast?"

They answered, "No."

He said, "Throw the net off the right side of the boat and see what happens."

They did what he said. All of a sudden there were so many fish in it, they weren't strong enough to pull it in.

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Master!"

When Simon Peter realized that it was the Master, he threw on some clothes, for he was stripped for work, and dove into the sea. The other disciples came in by boat for they weren't far from land, a hundred yards or so, pulling along the net full of fish. When they got out of the boat, they saw a fire laid, with fish and bread cooking on it.

Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you've just caught." Simon Peter joined them and pulled the net to shore—153 big fish! And even with all those fish, the net didn't rip.

Jesus said, "Breakfast is ready." Not one of the disciples dared ask, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Master.

Jesus then took the bread and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus had shown himself alive to the disciples since being raised from the dead.

After breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Master, you know I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

He then asked a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

"Yes, Master, you know I love you."

Jesus said, "Shepherd my sheep."

Then he said it a third time: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, "Do you love me?" so he answered, "Master, you know everything there is to know. You've got to know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I'm telling you the very truth now: When you were young you dressed yourself and went wherever you wished, but when you get old you'll have to stretch out your hands while someone else dresses you and takes you where you don't want to go." He said this to hint at the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. And then he commanded, "Follow me" (from John 21).

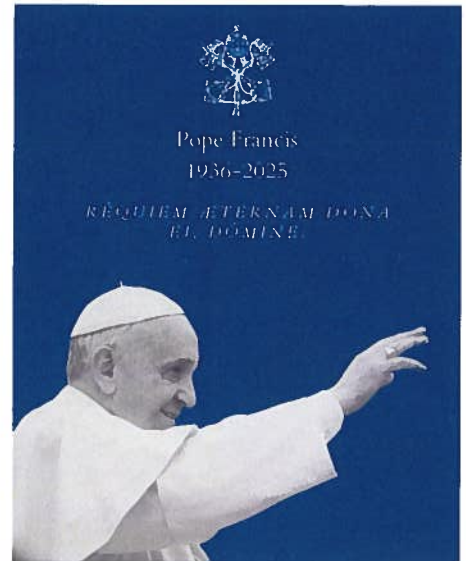


## Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

### What happens when a pope dies?

From the papal ring to three distinct coffins, there are a lot of details to cover.

As we mourn the passing of Pope Francis, let us honor his legacy of humility and compassion by offering prayers for his soul and the Church he so lovingly shepherded. May the Lord grant him eternal rest and guide the faithful during this time of transition.



You might think the world's smallest country would go quiet after a papal death—but oh no! Vatican City springs into action with a sacred blend of ancient ritual and precise logistics. Here's what actually happens when a pope dies:

#### 1. **First to Act:** The Camerlengo

Ever heard of the **Camerlengo**? Think of him as the temporary steward of the Vatican. When the pope dies, the Camerlengo confirms the death—once traditionally done by calling the pope's baptismal name three times! Today it's a bit more clinical, but the symbolism remains rich. The Camerlengo then smashes the pope's Fisherman's Ring with a silver hammer. Why? To prevent forgery of official documents during the time between popes.

#### 2. **Nine Days of Mourning**

After a pope dies, the Church enters a special nine-day mourning period called the **novemdiales**—Latin for "nine days." Each of the nine days features a **special funeral Mass** celebrated in honor of the deceased pope. These Masses are offered in St. Peter's Basilica and are often led by different cardinals, with intentions for the repose of the pope's soul, the needs of the Church, and the faithful worldwide.

#### 3. **Lying in State**

The pope's body is displayed in St. Peter's Basilica, allowing faithful pilgrims to pay their respects. The passing of a pope is truly a historical event, and a time when the whole world pays attention to the Church. When Pope John Paul II passed away, over **4 million people** flooded into Rome to honor him. Rome experienced a city-wide traffic jam that lasted nearly four days!

#### 4. **The Papal Coffins** (Yes, more than one!)

The pope is traditionally buried in **three coffins**: one made of cypress wood (symbol of humility), one of zinc (for preservation), and one of elm or oak (for dignity). They are all stacked within each other, with the pope being laid directly into the humble one made of simple cypress wood.

#### 5. **The Conclave Begins**

Once mourning ends, it's time for the **conclave**, the sacred and secretive process of electing the new pope. Every Cardinal that is eligible to vote (all those under the age of 80) gather in the Sistine Chapel and vote in silence.

#### 6. **The Pope is Chosen**

During the conclave, the world watches a tiny chimney atop the Sistine Chapel like hawks. Why? Because they use an old-fashioned stove to send up smoke signals: black for no decision, white for *Habemus Papam!* (*We have a pope!*) So, yes, the Vatican will be busy for the next few weeks. However, in these immediate nine days after the passing of our beloved Pontiff, let us follow the direction of the Church and spend time prayerfully mourning Pope Francis.





Congratulations and blessings to Alaina Truetner, Ava Riordan, Max Boone Carlson, James Patchett, and Kellen Mallaney who received the sacrament of First Holy Communion Saturday, April 26 at St. Margaret Mary.



God bless Saoirse O'Connor, Keaton O'Connor, and Lily O'Connor who received the sacrament of Reconciliation, Sunday April 27 at Sacred Heart.

The LORD  
feeds us  
himself



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St. JOHN PAUL II  
CATHOLIC PARISH

**Sunday, May 18, 2025**

6:30 p.m. Arrival of the Pilgrims with  
the Blessed Sacrament

6:30 p.m. Eucharistic Procession  
from the Settles Center to the Church

6:45 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Adoration with  
Evening Prayer and Benediction

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Monday, 7:00 a.m.  
Adoration

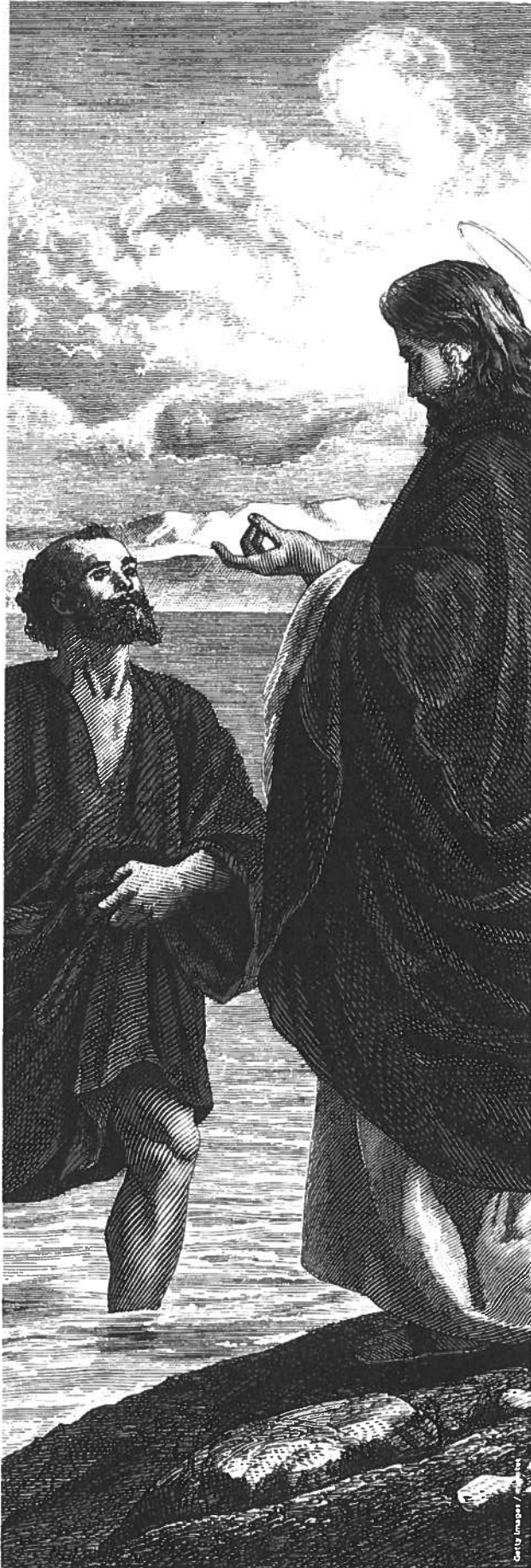
**Monday, May 19, 2025**

7:00 a.m. Benediction

7:30 a.m. Mass

956 S. 10th. Ave. Kankakee IL. 60901 | 815.933.7683 | [jp2kankakee.org](http://jp2kankakee.org)





May 4, 2025

## Third Sunday of Easter

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 | Rev 5:11-14 | Jn 21:1-19

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Underlying Peter's simple statement in today's Gospel, "I am going fishing," is an ocean of sadness. This leader of the Apostles was once so eager and self-assured that he declared to Jesus, "Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you." (Mt 26:35) But we know the story: At the decisive moment, Peter yielded under pressure and three times denied that he even knew Jesus. Now, after witnessing his Master's arrest and execution, Peter, whom Jesus called to leave his nets to be a fisher of men (see Mt 4:19), returns to his old profession. And even there he sustains another failure: he can't catch any fish! Swimming to shore, the ever-impulsive Apostle discovers that Jesus had already procured fish for breakfast without his help. Imagine Peter's consternation: my vocation as an Apostle, my career as a fisherman, my professed willingness to die for the Lord – everything I thought I could hang my hat on – were pretense and illusion.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

In our relationship with God, we are at times beset by the reality of our own weaknesses and apparent failures. But for Peter as for us, despondency does not have to have the final word. In one of the most intimate exchanges in the Gospels, Jesus heals Peter's self-inflicted wound. "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" the Lord asks three times. What Jesus desires from the Apostle is not eloquent declarations of courage; he wants Peter's love; he wants his heart: conscious of its frailty and humble enough to be led where it does not want to go. Neither Peter's day job nor his grandiose spiritual aspirations are useful to the Lord if Peter has not first surrendered himself to God. This is because only a heart which belongs to God and draws its strength from him can bear fruit for the kingdom of heaven. Such is likewise true for us, often so anxious about tomorrow or preoccupied with our attempts to "earn" God's love. Our primary responsibility, without which none of our other labors will be fruitful, is to give our hearts completely to him.

### **PRAY**

Repetition is the mother of learning. Three times, Jesus asked Peter to renew his love – perhaps, in part, to convince Peter! This week, offer your heart to God as soon as you get up in the morning. You could even use Peter's words: "Lord, you know that I love you." By making this a habit, you invite God's grace and strength to make each day's actions fruitful.

## SPIRITUALITY

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ is risen, creator of all;  
he has shown pity on all people.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel John 21:1-19; L48C

At that time, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias.

He revealed himself in this way.

Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples.

Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."

They said to him, "We also will come with you."

So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?"

They answered him, "No."

So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something."

So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in

because of the number of fish.

So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord."

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord,

he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea.

The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish.

*Continued in Appendix A, p. 296,*

*or John 21:1-14, p. 296.*

### Reflecting on the Gospel

At a liturgy held at a Catholic parish, a couple who has been married for fifty years comes forward and renews their marital promises to one another. In a Mass held at a nearby convent, a group of sisters, assembled for the yearly gathering of their congregation, publicly renews their vows before returning to their mission. The commitment to love is not something professed only once,

but again and again. Recalling one's first fervor of infatuation with the beloved fans into flame again the ability to continue loving despite hardships and challenges.

So it is with Peter in today's gospel. When pressed by a servant girl in the courtyard of the high priest, he had failed to acknowledge that he even knew Jesus, much less that he loved and believed in him. Earlier, at the tumultuous moment of Jesus's arrest, he had hotheadedly lashed out with a sword and had cut off the ear of a slave of the high priest. His failures to love are symbolically depicted in his inability to catch any fish.

Yet Peter still does love Jesus and is still able to bring many others into that circle of love. Allowing himself to be fed by the Source of love, he experiences forgiveness, renewal, and empowerment to extend that love to others. It is an efficacious and uniting love, symbolized by the great haul of fish and the net that is not torn.

Three times Peter professes his love. Three is a complete number, signaling fullness. Some commentators note that there are two different Greek words for "love" in this exchange between Jesus and Peter. The first two times Jesus uses the verb *agapaō*, signaling the kind of Christian love that is totally self-giving and inclusive. Both times Peter responds with the verb *phileō*, which refers to the love of friends. The third time Jesus switches to *phileō*, to which Peter again responds with *phileō*.

Some commentators think of this shift in vocabulary as Peter's inability to achieve the highest form of love that Jesus asks, and that Jesus comes down to Peter's level the third time. More likely is that the Evangelist is simply varying the vocabulary, as is the case with the verbs for feed (*boskein*, vv. 15, 17) and tend (*poimainein*, v. 16), and the nouns for lambs (*arnion*, v. 15) and sheep (*probaton*, vv. 16, 17). Moreover, in this gospel, there is no greater love than the love of a friend who lays down his or her life for a friend (15:13).

The love between Jesus and his own is both fruitful and costly. It is not a love that encloses the lovers in an exclusive bubble of bliss. It is a love that bears fruit, extending itself outward in mission, feeding the hungers of those who are most vulnerable. It asks disciples to take a stance of arms outstretched—extended in prayer, in embrace of the Beloved and all his friends, in service to those in need, and finally, in cruciformity—as the outstretched arms of Christ draw all to himself.

