

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

THE MERCY OF CHRIST KNOWS NO BOUNDS



This Sunday's Gospel tells us of the third appearance of the risen Jesus to His disciples. This event takes place on the shores of Lake Galilee. It all begins with Simon Peter's decision to go fishing, a fishing trip that proves fruitless. It is there, in this state of failure, that Jesus joins His disciples. When all seems to be over, Jesus Himself goes to "search" for His disciples. He appears before them on the shores of the lake, but they do not recognize him.

Addressing these tired and disappointed fishermen, Jesus has them begin their fishing again: **"Cast the nets on the right side of the boat and you will find some." And there, the result exceeds all their expectations.** The

Gospel tells us of 153 fish. This symbolic number corresponds to the number of species of fish known at the time. It is a way of reminding those who will be called to become "fishers of men" of the universal mission. But we must not forget that this extraordinary catch was only possible with the Lord. They let down the nets, but it was He who filled them. This is true of all missionary work: we are sent to proclaim the good news of the Gospel, but it is He who acts in the hearts of those who hear it.

All this requires of us an unending love for the One who called and sent us. This is what Peter is asked: "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" This question comes up three times. We remember that Peter had denied His Master three times in a row. He therefore found himself in a very uncomfortable situation. But Jesus offers him a way out. Peter is able to express his love for Him three times. Then Jesus makes Him the shepherd of His flock. **All great witnesses of the faith are forgiven sinners**, people who have accepted God's mercy.

The mercy of Christ knows no bounds. This is true for each of us. He reaches out to us all wherever we are to revive our hope. **For Him, there is no hopeless situation. Like Peter, we are invited to "dive in" and trust His word.** Like him, we are sent into this world to bear witness to the hope that inspires us. It is to each and every one of us that the Risen Christ wishes to manifest his mercy. He Himself tells us that He came "to seek and save those who were lost." He wants to share in His victory over death and sin.

The great message of these three biblical readings is that the Risen Christ is always there, even if we cannot see Him. He never ceases to reach out to us in the midst of our lives, our doubts, and our trials. He comes to forgive us. **With Him, we can rise again and be reborn to trust.**

This Easter celebration should revive our faith, our deep connection with Jesus Christ. May He give us strength and courage for the mission He entrusts to us.

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