

**SHARING THE FAITH: WEEKLY EMAIL DEVOTION
FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 18, 2010**

Readings for April 18, Third Sunday of Easter:

JOHN 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Faith Questions:

1. This gospel text contains another story of Jesus and the disciples eating together. Why do you think these stories might be significant? What is the importance of eating together—for Jesus, and for us?
2. Why do you think Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him? Peter is obviously hurt by Jesus' repetition of the question. How might you have responded if you were in Peter's shoes?
3. Each time Peter answers Jesus' question, Jesus responds with, "Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep." What connection do you see between Jesus' question—Do you love me?—and the follow-up—Feed my sheep?
4. Loving Jesus is not enough—Peter is called into action out of that love (Feed my sheep). In what ways do your own daily actions reflect the love that you have for Jesus?
5. In this text Jesus spends some time assisting his disciples with their daily work of being fishermen. How is Jesus present in your daily life and work? Where do you encounter the power of the resurrected Christ in ordinary circumstances?

Let us pray:

Lord, thanks for being present in the ordinary parts of my life—around the dinner table, at work, and in my relationships. Help me to also follow the call you gave to Peter, by showing people how much I love you through how I act in my everyday life. Help me to feed your sheep, too.

For whom else, and for what else, shall we pray? (Insert your own prayer here)
Amen.

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