

Third Sunday of Easter

On this 3rd Sunday of Easter we reflect on how, like saint Peter, following Christ means embracing the daily challenges of discipleship. Peter's journey reminds us that even when we fail, Jesus calls us to deeper love and to "feed my sheep" (His sheep) by serving others.

Today, as we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have the great character of our four Gospels, Saint Peter! We all know about what happened between him and Jesus, from the time he chose him to be one of the twelve when he professed that Jesus is the Christ, the time he denied Jesus three times, and now to this point when Jesus appeared to them in this Gospel.

We do not know really how Peter was feeling after the Resurrection of Jesus, [(disappointment and shame: to betray your Master and your Lord!)] but we can guess that he was defeated, especially after having denied his Master and Lord Jesus three times.

Surrounded so great disappointment and shame, what does Saint Peter do? Well, he goes back to what he knows, he goes fishing. We all know that discipleship with Jesus meant and will always mean that everything was left behind, including our professions, our jobs, etc.

But what else can a person do when he or she is surrounded a cloud of doubt and a loss of someone in whom was all the people's hope? The answer here is very simple: they go back to what they know, and this was the reaction of Saint Peter and some of his companions.

Brothers and sisters,

Like Peter, when we sin, we feel the defeat of our efforts, and sometimes we may feel that we are not good enough for the journey of Christianity. Sometimes we feel that it is too heavy for us, and we just we think that it is better to give up; we go back to what we feel comfortable and familiar with, which is not Christianity, simply because we feel like Christianity is too tough, too difficult. Just remember the experience of the people of Israel in the wilderness... (We know it will not be good, easy for us, but we want to go back!)

When that happens to us, please remember this: Christianity means "Deny yourself, take up your Cross daily, and follow me". (This Jesus speaking! Not Me!)

That is not easy. But what we hear from the Gospel today is a beautiful reminder of the Lord that even though it can happen that fail and abandon Him, Himself will never abandon us. He will come out to the shore, He will satisfy our hungers by preparing breakfast for us and we will start a new day with Him, which means a new journey with Him, and Him with us.

This is what happened with the disciples; but before we get started with the new journey, we have to do something very important, and this is what happened between Peter and Jesus: we have to renew our love for Jesus: "...Do you love me"? This is strongly similar to what we do during the night of Easter Vigil, when we renew our baptismal vows.

This question of Jesus to Peter is ours today, and if we want to respond, the experience of Peter speaks a lot: whenever we feel defeated, and Jesus comes to find you where you went back to your former ways of living, remember that Easter time is all about the renewal of our ways of living, and whenever you hear his voice calling you by your name, asking you if you love Him, please in humility tell Him like Peter, "You know all, you know that I love You". That will be enough for you.