

Third Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2022

The recent Gospel stories are from the Gospel of John. Once again, I put before you the many symbols enunciated in John's writing.

- The image of fishing: in John's gospel the disciples are constantly fishing for followers of Jesus. They are depicted as searching for the building up of the new Community. The followers of Jesus.
- As they gathered for "breakfast" notice that Jesus "took the bread and gave it to them" the same words and image at the Last Supper at the institution of the Eucharist.
- Then of course there is Peter's denial. Recall how in the garden and during the passion, Peter denied Jesus three times. Hence, we have here in John's Gospel, the healing of Peter's sin. He is asked three times "do you love me?" this question, asked three times, reveals Peter's Act of Faith, and confirmed love of Jesus. Yes, Lord, you know that I love you. Three times a denial, three times an Act of Faith.

To end the Gospel, John once again has Jesus "calling" the disciples: "Follow me". And that is exactly what the question is to us. "Do you love me?" Then, come "follow me". As I write this I have in my memory Tevya singing to his wife, "Do you love me?" Maybe our answer is like that of his wife.....