

Read

Acts of the Apostles
5:27-32, 40b-41

Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

LIVING THE WORD

Third Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2019



REFLECTION

Sometimes you can get in trouble when you stand up for your beliefs. Historically, people who challenge authority often help change systems of injustice. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is famous for practicing and teaching nonviolent social resistance. He stood firmly in his faith and helped change a system of oppression that made our world a better place for his children and his children's children. In today's First Reading from Acts of the Apostles, the Sanhedrin orders the followers of Jesus Christ to stop teaching. The disciples leave the Sanhedrin giddy with such excitement that they were recognized as leaders of "the Way." Their leadership was paying off and it was worth the punishment. Sometimes it is hard to stand as a leader rooted in faith in today's society because of peer pressure, societal expectations and fear of becoming a social outcast. However, as Peter and the early followers experienced, to represent the faith is truly a gift for which it is worth getting in trouble.

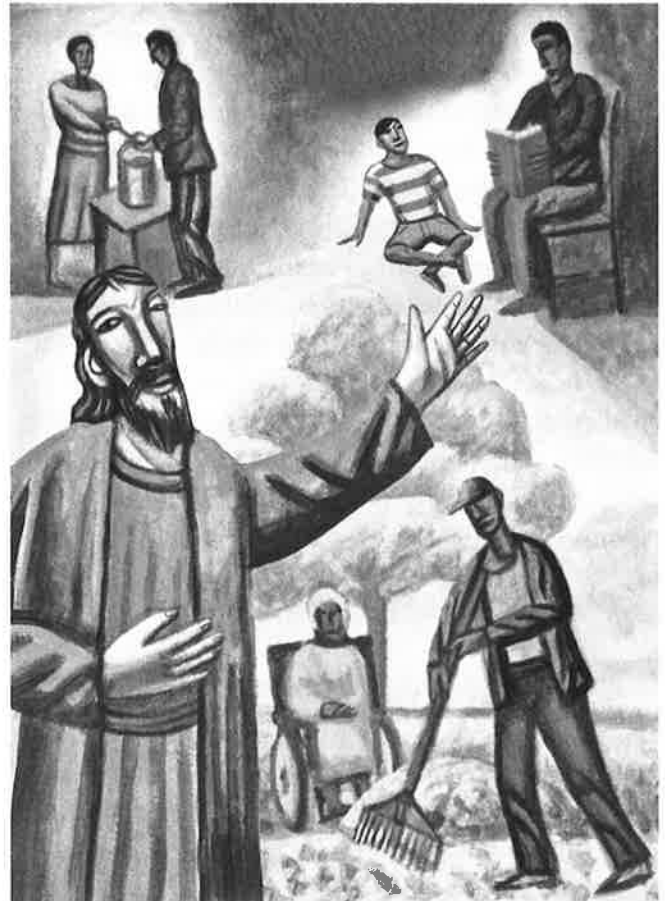
? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What gifts help you to see yourself as a leader?
- ❖ What line from the Apostle's Creed has stuck with you this week?



ACTION

Pray with the Apostle's Creed this week. It is the mission statement of our early Church leaders. While it was not written in its complete form until after the first Church Council, the early followers certainly reminded each other of their fundamental beliefs. Reflect on how powerful these words must have been as a motivator in the face of the injustices the early followers most surely battled. Arrest, torture, and martyrdom stared them in the face every day and yet they continued to press on to share the news that Jesus was the Messiah.





May 5, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

LECTIONARY #48C

Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32, 40b-41

Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19 or John 21:1-14

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

Each reading today helps us recognize and appreciate the bountiful gifts that God provides and to which we are called to respond. We obey the Lord because we have experienced his great goodness, and no matter what hardship or struggles may come as a result of our faithful obedience, we stand steadfast in our faith. Today's First and Second Readings allude to the power of Jesus and how this in turn empowers us. In today's Gospel, the Apostles see Jesus standing on the shore after a long, fruitless night of fishing. They are surprised by his appearance, but grateful he is there, especially when he provides a bountiful catch for them as they approach land. This is reminiscent of the first call of the Apostles, as well as a display of Jesus' providential love. The Gospel powerfully illustrates how the Lord provides all that we could ever hope to have. Our faith should always be in response to these abundant gifts given.

Q FOCUS: *God's love always provides.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

This third week of Easter continues our celebration of the Lord's victorious and triumphant Resurrection. It's very easy to slide into the "Easter rut" and think this is just a week like any other. Today's readings present us with another opportunity to contemplate the true splendor of Jesus' defeat over death. This week, on May 10, the Church honors and remembers

St. Damien de Veuster, a man who worked diligently with leper colonies that had been forgotten and abandoned. This holy man truly embraced and lived the Easter season, unafraid to preach the Resurrection to those who had been forgotten, ignored, and abandoned.

Church Teaching Connections

"Peoples everywhere, open the doors to Christ! His Gospel in no way detracts from man's freedom, from the respect that is owed to every culture and to whatever is good in each religion. By accepting Christ, you open yourselves to the definitive Word of God, to the One in whom God has made himself fully known and has shown us the path to himself" (Redemptoris missio, 3).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 21:1-14

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

At that time, Jesus revealed himself 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. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

► Do you remember what Peter's job was before he became an Apostle?

He was a fisherman, a popular and common job in that part of the world at the time.

► And today, what do we see Peter doing?

He's going fishing. He's returning to his familiar, former work.

► Why do you think Peter is fishing again?

What was the catalyst for going back out onto the water?

Peter and some of the other Apostles (seven in total) get into their boat and pick up right where they left off: night fishing, so they could sell their catch, make some money, and survive.

► Do they catch anything?

► How would you feel after working all night and having nothing to show for it? frustrated? upset? tired?

► How do you think the Apostles felt after having empty nets after a long night of work?

► But then, who is waiting for them on the shore? Whom do they see and speak to?

► Why do you think Jesus asks the Apostles if they caught anything? Isn't he God? Doesn't he know everything?

It seems as if Jesus wants to point out to them that they were unsuccessful in their attempt to return to their old, familiar jobs. They didn't catch anything.

► I wonder why. Is it perhaps because Jesus doesn't want them to return to regular old fishing?

Jesus tells the Apostles to throw their nets to the other side of the boat, and when they do, their nets nearly break because they catch so many fish. This is far more than their haul would have been from the entire night before; yet in one fell swoop, they have a boat full. Peter immediately recognizes this man they're speaking to as Jesus.

► What does Peter do? Why?

In his excitement, Peter swims/runs to the shore to see Jesus up close. He clearly misses his friend and wants to talk to him. Jesus asks the Apostles to bring fish over to the fire that he has built, and Peter drags the entire net and pulls it toward him. Peter is zealous, full of passion for the Lord. Rather than just grabbing a few fish to cook, he brings the

whole net. He is overwhelmed with joy at the sight of Jesus and wants to do exactly as he was told.

► **And then what does Jesus ask of the Apostles?**

He wants them to have breakfast with him. Something so simple as breakfast, so commonplace and regular. But this is precisely what Jesus has come to do: eat with his friends and spend time with them.

► **Why are the Apostles so passionate about serving the Lord, as we see in the First Reading today? Why are they willing to endure physical torture and even martyrdom because they preach the faith and build the Church?**

(Since only the Gospel was proclaimed at today's session, you may need to give teens a recap of the First Reading.) Because they experienced moments like this with Jesus as they ate meals with him; they spent time with him. They knew, without a shadow of a doubt, that Jesus cared for them, provided for them, and loved them without fail. And so, they respond by preaching, baptizing, healing, and proclaiming the Good News.

► **Do you think you would recognize Jesus if he asked to share a meal with you?**

► **Would you be willing to endure hardship and persecution for preaching the faith? Or would you give up and give in?**

Peter and the Apostles in the Gospel are a perfect model of the zeal and passion we should have when it comes to spending time with the Lord.

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 188.

The Resurrection should fundamentally change us, forcing us to act and live differently in the world.

We are called to accept Christ, who shows us himself and provides for us.

When we accept the Gospel, then we are able to live fully in the freedom meant for choosing the Lord's path over our own.

Act on the Word

You will need notecards, post-it notes, pens, pencils, Bibles, and stop watch.

Give each teen a stack of notecards, post-it notes, and something to write with. Ask teens to come up with as many breakfast foods as they can in 153 seconds (reminiscent of the 153 fish in the net from today's Gospel). After they are finished, they should form groups with other teens to create a full breakfast meal. For example, if one teen has eggs, cereal, and milk on their card and another teen has potatoes, yogurt, fruit, and toast, they can match up and form two or three meals together. Pass out Bibles and have teens reread the Gospel. Point out how Peter must have felt many different emotions during this experience. Ask teens:

► **Have you ever felt this way at certain points in your life? How? When? Why?**

► **Has there ever been a moment in your life when you've been persecuted, picked on, mocked, or suffered for your faith? When? What was your response?**

After the groups have had a chance to answer these questions together, have them share what they've discussed (in summary) with the larger group.

Closing Prayer

*God of love,
feed us this day on your Word
and give us the confidence to radiate your love
in the world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout that is found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.