



Daily Reflections

April 21, 2017

Scripture

John 21: 1-14

Jesus revealed himself again 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.

Our Scripture Reflection

It was back to business as usual for the scandalized disciples at first. After all, fishing had been their family's profession, it was all they knew. And then the Risen Lord appeared to them. He had another plan for His disciples.

They would use their skills from that day forward to catch people. There is a most important lesson for us in this story. When we experience conversion, there is always the temptation to go back to the way life was. With the Lord's help we must resist that temptation. While change can be difficult, it is necessary that we keep moving forward.

Food for your Journey

Earl Wright Jr.'s alley fish fry was held again last weekend and featured two ice chests filled with croaker and spot. Wright and his neighbor Leroy Nelson had just caught the fish near Point Lookout Island and Deale in Maryland.

The guests of honor this year, as at the first fish fry last year, were the homeless, the alcoholic and the drug-addicted people who roam the streets near Wright's home in the 3800 block of 10th Street NW [in Washington].

When most residents see such people in their neighborhoods, holding a fish fry for them is not the first thing that comes to mind. But Wright is one of those rare souls who believe that what the less fortunate need most is more understanding and sympathy, not more grief.

"To me, every man is a man, and an addiction is something that can be worked out," said Wright, a 72-year-old retired painter. "I see people out on the streets that I knew before they got into trouble. They are not bad people. I don't call them misfits. They come by and talk. They say, 'I'm trying to do the right thing. Just give me a little time.' And I believe them. I give them a couple of bucks, if I can spare it, or give them some work to do, and I throw this fish fry for them."

-Courtland Milloy, "Filling stomachs,
feeding the soul," The Washington Post,
September 20, 2000, B1.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You have forgiven my sins and called me to a new life in You. Lord, help me to walk forward without fear and with the confidence that You are with me. Amen.