

Christ gives peace at Mass

3rd Sunday of Easter (May 4): (R3) Luke 24:35-48; (R1) Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; (R2) 1 John 2:1-5.

The Gospels of the first three Sundays after Easter are meant to prove to us the reality of our Lord's Resurrection.

Our Lord never wanted us to stop thinking when it comes to the truths of our faith. In fact he answered all the doubts of his Apostles after his Resurrection. He knew that nobody could be a witness to the truth unless he first was certain of the truth of his testimony. If the Apostles were going to preach the Resurrection, they had to be convinced of it. And their conviction had to be more than an intellectual conviction; it had to be a conviction based on firsthand experience. They had to experience the risen Jesus: to see him, to hear him, to touch him and to eat with him.

Our Lord understood that. So he gave them such evidence. On Easter Eve he stood in their midst and he appealed to their hearing by talking to them. "Peace to you," he said. He appealed to their sight by saying, "Look at my hands and my feet; it is really I." He appealed to their feeling by saying, "Touch me, and see that a ghost does not have flesh and bones as I do." He appealed to their common sense by taking a piece of cooked fish and eating it before their very eyes.

And so these fishermen — used to outdoor life, to the open sky and sea, to hard work, who were no visionaries, whose five senses were never dulled by overindulgence in food or drink or inactivity — were convinced by Jesus that he was no ghost.

They not only realized this, but they also saw that it was the same old Jesus — the Jesus they had known before his death. There he was speaking words of peace. He was always making peace or giving it by



Father Albert Shamon

A word for Sunday

wiping away the sins that spoil man's peace of soul. There he was still mildly chiding their unbelief, as he had done after walking on water, "Why are you disturbed?" There he was, still as familiar as he had always been, "Touch me, and see." But above all, he was still the same patient and sympathetic Jesus they had always known. Even after he had given them all the evidence of his Resurrection, they were still incredulous. He eats for them and urges them to remember what he had once told them.

A great teacher was once asked, "What is the first condition of successful teaching?" He answered, "Patience." "And the second?" "Patience." "What's the third?" He paused a moment, then said, "Sympathy." Jesus showed the same patience and sympathy after his Resurrection as before his death.

And what did the risen Jesus give to his Apostles?

First, peace.

Secondly, he banished their fears and doubts.

Thirdly, he refreshed their memories, "Recall those words I spoke to you when I was still with you."

Fourthly, he opened their minds to the understanding of Scriptures.

Lastly, he told them what their work was to be — they were to be witnesses of his Resurrection, and

they were to tell everybody that because the Lord is risen, every sinner can rise from sin.

In the first reading we see Peter doing just that. "Reform your lives! Turn to God who wipes away sin and gives the peace the world cannot give." This is what the world needs — peace through the wiping away of sins.

Whether or not the world or a friend gets this peace will often depend on us. Every Sunday at Mass Jesus comes and stands in our midst just as he had done for the Apostles. He comes Sunday after Sunday. Why? Just to give us peace through the forgiveness of sins, to banish our fears and doubts, and to open our mind to the understanding of his words.

In the light of the Resurrection none of us should be discouraged, weighed down by the evil of sin. Christ is risen. Because he is, we can meet him in his word, in his sacraments — especially in the Eucharist and penance — all to the end that now we, too, may enjoy victory over sin and eternal death.

Father Shamon is administrator of St. Isaac Jogues Chapel, Fleming.

Daily Readings

Monday, May 5
Acts 6:8-15;
Psalms 119:23-24,
26-27, 29-30;
John 6:22-29

Tuesday, May 6
Acts 7:51-8:1A;
Psalms 31:3CD-4, 6AB,
7B, 8A, 17, 21AB;
John 6:30-35

Wednesday, May 7
Acts 8:1B-8;
Psalms 66:1-3A, 4-7a;
John 6:35-40

Thursday, May 8
Acts 8:26-40;
Psalms 66:8-9, 16-17, 20;
John 6:44-51

Friday, May 9
Acts 9:1-20;
Psalms 117:1-2;
John 6:52-59

Saturday, May 10
Acts 9:31-42;
Psalms 116:12-17;
John 6:60-69



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