

Homily

May 5, 2019

3rd Sunday of Easter – Year C

Happy Easter! Jesus is risen, Alleluia! I love saying that; this is such a joyous season.

I played basketball when I was in grade school. I wasn't a starter, but I played. When high school came along, I found out that the only requirement to join the basketball team was to run a mile – in less than 6 minutes. I had never run a mile before, much less a timed mile. So, I didn't even try. I had no faith in my ability to run that fast. Ironically, by track season, we ran 3 miles every day just to warm up before practice. And by my senior year, I was running sub-five-minute miles.

Faith; it's what keeps us going, keeps us trying.

The apostles were still reeling from their loss. Jesus was gone, dead. They didn't know what to do.

Then He shows up and they are terrified; it must be a ghost. He can't be here because he died. They saw it happen. They took Him down from the cross. They wrapped him in the funeral cloths. They laid Him in the tomb. They rolled the stone closing Him in.

So how does Jesus show them He is alive? He eats with them. Why? Because the dead don't eat.

So, I say it again: Happy Easter! Jesus is risen, Alleluia!

The apostles had the advantage of sight; they saw Jesus eat the fish. As we heard in today's Gospel, the apostles went fishing and caught nothing. Then Jesus tells them to cast off over the right side of their boat. And they pulled a massive haul of 153 large fish. And He wasn't just there with them, He ate the fish with them. So how do we know He is alive today? Faith!

We know He is alive because we believe. We have faith in the Good News. We have faith in the Sacraments. We have faith that what He said those 2000 years ago is true; He defeated death by rising from the dead so that we may live.

I keep coming to Mass because I believe and have faith that by nourishing myself on the Word of God and on His Body and Blood, I will have eternal life.

I keep going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation because I believe and have faith that by confessing my sins and receiving absolution, God truly forgives me and that I have restored my soul to friendship with God.

But what about the everyday stuff? What about our struggles?

Do we have faith in God over the routine things? When we have financial struggles, do we pray in faith knowing that God will answer our prayers?

When we have family struggles, marital strife, challenges with our children or parents, do we pray in faith knowing that God will answer our prayers?

When I go to confession, my penance is frequently to pray that I may not lose faith in my struggles to be good.

The apostles had Jesus right there in front of them and they still struggled with faith.

We may not have Jesus walking and talking and eating with us as they did, but we have Jesus here in the Word proclaimed and in the Sacrament we are about to receive; Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

Do we believe? Do we have faith? Pray today that you do not lose faith. Pray today that the Spirit may pour down faith on you in abundance.