

Homily
Friday in the Octave of Easter
April 5, 2024

My house is constantly in need of repairs. And it looks worn. Even with a fresh coat of paint, the walls are scarred from dings and cuts that have been spackled over. The marks on the walls and scratch marks on furniture from the dogs show too much character. The carpet, just a few years old, has definite wear patterns from where we walk most often. Stains and marks cover our end tables and nightstands. Even our cars show signs of wear; dings and dents, scratches from our rings from opening the doors, the smallest crack in the windshield I still need to repair before it starts spreading. We clean and we repair, but life keeps happening.

Our bodies are the same way; I have scars from surgeries and old injuries that just won't completely fade; my knees, hips and shoulders just aren't the same as they used to be; either the print in these books are shrinking or my eyes are getting weaker – it's probably the books.

Even our lives show wear and tear. We've all experienced trauma. We've all been hurt. And we've all hurt others, mostly in small ways, but the injury is real.

Jesus is the only way to true healing. He binds and makes whole. In today's Gospel, we see the disciples failing to catch any fish. Then Jesus is there; not only do they catch fish, they catch a lot of fish, and the nets don't tear. Jesus makes everything new and whole. In His Passion, He makes all things new. In Baptism, we die with Him and rise to new life in Him. In Confession, He forgives and absolves, heals and repairs; He makes us whole again.

In this Easter Season, we remember that without Jesus, we are lost, damaged, hurt and alone. With Jesus, we are found, healed, seen and loved. Jesus brings us back to life and gives it to us abundantly, if only we will come to Him and say, "Yes."