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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2019

“Do you love the Risen Lord more than all else”

Why didn't the apostles immediately recognize the Risen Lord Jesus when he greeted them at the Sea of Tiberias (also called the lake of Gennesaret or Galilee)? John gives us a clue. He states that Peter had decided to return to his home district of Galilee, very likely so he could resume his fishing career. Peter was discouraged and didn't know what to do after the tragedy of Jesus' death! He went back to his previous job as a fisherman out of uncertainty for his future. Six of the other apostles followed him back to Galilee.

The Lord Jesus renews Peter's faith and calling - and ours as well

Why did Jesus choose to reveal himself to the apostles at the Sea of Galilee - and right after they had spent a whole night of futile fishing? The Risen Lord was waiting on the shore for Peter and the other apostles. When their boat drew near the shore, Jesus questioned them and then gave a command to lower their nets into the sea. When their nets began to burst at the great haul of fish, John, the beloved disciple, recognized that it was the Lord who was speaking to them. Peter then immediately leaped from the boat and ran to the Lord. Do you run to the Lord Jesus when you meet setbacks and disappointments, and when your faith is being put to the test? The Lord Jesus is always ready to renew us in faith and to give each of us fresh hope in his promises for us.

Why did Jesus perform this miraculous catch of fish after his third resurrection appearance to the apostles? By looking back to the first miracle of the great catch of fish, we can recognize the significance of Jesus repeating this miracle again for his apostles. The first miracle took place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee when the Lord called Peter to leave all and follow him. After Peter had fished all night and caught nothing, Jesus commanded him to lower his nets (see Luke 5:4-11). When his nets began to break under the weight of the great haul, Jesus then spoke to Peter and gave him a new calling and mission - from now on he would be "catching people" for the kingdom of God (Luke 5:10). Jesus repeats this miracle for Peter to remind him that he must continue his mission of "catching people" and "making disciples" for the kingdom of Christ.

Skeptics who disbelieve the resurrection accounts say the disciples only saw a vision of Jesus. The Gospels, however, give us a vivid picture of the reality of the resurrected and glorified body of the Lord Jesus. Jesus went out of his way to offer his disciples various proofs of his physical resurrection - that he is real and true flesh, not just a spirit or imaginary ghost.

The Lord wants to renew our minds and rekindle our hearts with his transforming love

The Lord Jesus calls each one of us, even in our personal struggles, weakness, and sin, to draw near to him as our merciful Healer and Savior. He invites us to choose him as our Lord and to love him above all else. What can hold us back from giving him our undivided love and unqualified loyalty (Romans 8:38-39)? Nothing but our own sinful pride and stubborn will, and blind fear can hold us back from receiving his gracious forgiveness, loving-kindness, and faithful love. God's abundant grace (favor and blessing) is a free and unmerited gift, far beyond what we deserve or could possibly hope to obtain through our own means. We can never outmatch God in generosity and goodness. He loved us first and our love for him is a response to his exceeding grace (unmerited favor) and mercy.

"Lord Jesus, inflame my heart with your merciful love and remove everything that is unkind, ungrateful, unloving and unholy, and that is not in accord with your will. May I always seek to love you above all else and follow you wherever you wish to lead me."

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE



On Thursday May 9, a Coach bus is booked to take participants from **Merciful Redeemer** parking lot following a 6 a.m. Mass. The bus will leave at 6:30 a.m. sharp and will return to MR at around 9 pm that evening. The cost is \$40 pp. You can pay at The Church office (of Merciful Redeemer) which will secure your seat.

PLEASE NOTE

Next Saturday May 11, Confessions will be from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m., as Fr. Bernard will be rehearsing with the First Holy Communion children before the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If your home address or telephone number has changed, please send us an email at office@st-francisofassisi.ca.

MONDAY, MAY 6 – 7:00 P.M.

S.I. Gabriel Mansour

TUESDAY, MAY 7 – 8:00 A.M.

Intention Available

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Antony Joseph

+ Blanca, Jose and Alexandra Byrne

THURSDAY, MAY 9 – 8:00 A.M.

In reparation for offenses committed against the Most Holy Eucharist.

FRIDAY, MAY 10 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Ramon Duterte

+ Ann Hubert

+ Raymond Murray

SATURDAY, MAY 11 – 5:00 P.M.

+ Kam Fong Shun-Tin

+ Irene Lee

+ Bill Kovalchuk

SUNDAY, MAY 12 – 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30 A.M. S.I. Parish Community

10:00 A.M. Intention Available

12:00 P.M. S.I. For the Beatification of the Venerable Edel Quinn

MADE FOR MORE

Have you ever wondered where we come from and where we are going? Answering these questions will help us understand what it means to be human and how to orient our lives and actions toward true and lasting fulfillment. Come to Merciful Redeemer Parish on May 29, from 7-9:30 pm, to experience an evening with Christopher West and Mike Mangione, who will illuminate you with a presentation that combines insightful teaching, live music, videos, sacred art and moments of reflection, that will lead you on a path of discovery. Tickets cost \$20. Contact Kurtis at 647-378-3537 or the MRP office 905-812-0030. Alternatively, you can purchase tickets online at www.corproject.com/torontowest (an extra service charge applies). Appropriate for ages 15 years and above.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Why Is the Church Always Asking for More Money? On May 13 all young adults (19-39) are invited to join us for Theology on Tap – an evening of thought-provoking conversation on theological topics. Boston Pizza, 50 Courtney Park Dr. E., Mississauga. For more information contact Office of Catholic Youth at 416-599-7676.



Living the Gospel with Justice and love.

“ShareLife represents a reliable signpost on the course mapped out by our Pastoral Plan—namely, its core direction of 'Catholic Outreach in Justice and Love.' The work of our agencies, and your generosity towards them, serve as a pathway through which acts of justice and love are realized, and the witness of the Catholic faith is strengthened.” — Cardinal Thomas Collins

**Today is ShareLife Sunday.
Thank you for your generosity.**

SPRING FLOWER SALE

Thank you for supporting the Knights of Columbus spring flower sale. Plant pick up will be the Mother's Day weekend May 11 & 12.



2019 ACTS RETREATS



Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre (1617 Blythe Rd., Mississauga) Women's Retreat – May 2 – 5, 2019, Men's Retreat – May 30 –

June 2, 2019 ACTS is an acronym for: Adoration, Community, Theology and Service. Come and renew yourself spiritually, to strengthen your faith and to apply it to your daily life. For more information, please visit www.actscanada.org. Women's Retreat contact Verena Mayhew (905) 820-1214 or verena.mayhew@bell.net. Men's Retreat contact Marcel Pouliot (905) 961-7111 or marcel@artechindustrial.ca.

THE REAL STORY OF CATHOLIC HISTORY

On May 23 St. Francis Xavier Parish invites you to a presentation by Steve Weidenkopf, the American creator, co-author and presenter of Epic: A Journey through Church History. Discover why we are Catholics. Cost \$15. For more information contact the parish at 905-890-5290.

CRADLE OF HOPE

The weekend of June 29 the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council of Toronto presents Cradle of Hope. Speakers include Fr. Dave Pivonka, Fr. Mattias Yaw Kotoka and Fr. Ben St. Croix. Mass, adoration, confession, praise and worship and healing service. Toronto Pavilion 190 Railside Rd., North York. For more information call 416-466-0776.

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