**3rd Sunday of Easter(Cycle. C. 20125.**

Before Christs’ coming, the **Tuscans made their tombs face the west,** for death meant for them the close of life’s’ day and the passing into eternal life. After Christs’ coming, the tombs face the East, for the **Easter day has come with its radiant promise, bringing new life and immortality to** light. In this changed scenario is the secret of that o**verwhelming joy which Christianity** brought into the world.

The Apostles were called to be fishers of men, but after the crucifixion and death of Jesus they were in the grip of uncertainty, despair and gloom. They found consolation in their former profession. **Meant to be fishers of men, but they preferred to be fishers of fi**sh! As they were exhausted by the night’s’ long fruitless labor, Jesus appeared to them, prepared a meal for them and lifted their drooping spirits.

Often we return to our sinful life when faced with doubts and temptations. We fail to recognize the Risen Lord. We try to fish for happiness and joy in the sea of this material world. Though we work day and night we fail to achieve our goal. In such moments of discouragement and gloom, the Risen Lord comes to our rescue. But we need the eyes of faith, like those of Peter in order to recognize Him. He will feed us with the bread of life as he fed the apostles. If we are open to the presence of the Risen Lord, He will transform our sadness, doubts, fears and anxiety into the joy of witnessing Christ to the world. Then we shall be like the apostles **in todays’ First Reading who fearlessly** announced the good news of salivation inspite of trials and persecution. We become messengers of **“Peac**e” to this peace- less terror-stricken world. Truly the presence of the Risen Lord in us can transform the very face of the earth.

This is absolutely clear from the Gospel Reading today where we are brought to the breach of Tiberius, has a picnic with the Apostles, engages in a heart-t-heart, in depth dialogue with Peter and entrusts to him the task of caring for His sheep

**Chronologicall**y, first Jesus Reveals His death. In His death and Resurrection Jesus reveals His depth as the Son of God. In revealing His depth in death, Jesus teaches us to reach our depth by being faithful to Him as He was to His father even to the point of death.

Jesus thus becomes the Lord of our deepest self, our depth. And this depth is reached more especially when we are faithful to Christ in keeping His commandment: “**Love one another**”. But we cannot love anyone in depth without loving the man Jesus. And therefore, before Peter is given the task of caring for others, he is probed in depth and proved that he really loves the Lord. “***Do your love Me more than th***ese”?. *Does your* ***love,*** *Jesus seem****s, to ask, to reach out to its fullest depth, intensity and limit”?*** When we love Christ with all our mind and heart, He becomes our Lord and God. And this is what the first commandment teaches.

Jesus is Lord. But **His disciples did not experience His lordship as despotic and crushing**. They found **in Him a friend**- having a picnic together- and above all they found in Him their savior and the savior of all. “***There is no salvation except in the name of Jesus”*** was their conviction and experience. This is the Good News for all human beings, and it has to be proclaimed to all. This strong Conviction and the complete transformation of the Apostles by the Holy Spirit made them chosen witnesses before all men and women. In **fact increa**singly, we are reminded that in today’s world only Christians of such mettle & merit can survive as Christians. Do we belong **to such a credible category?...reflect..,.**