**Homily Summary – 3rd Sunday of Easter (Year C)**

**Overview:**

After experiencing the Resurrection, the disciples still struggled with uncertainty, retreating to their old life of fishing. Jesus meets them tenderly by the Sea of Tiberias, offers them a meal, and renews Peter’s call to love and mission. Like the apostles, we are invited into a deeper relationship with Christ and sent forth to serve Him boldly. The Resurrection transforms not only our hope but our whole way of living — from Sunday worship to Monday service.

**Key Points:**

* **Human Weakness and the Return to Old Ways:**
Like the disciples who returned to fishing, we too may fall back into old habits when facing disappointment or confusion. (John 21:3)
* **Jesus Meets Us Tenderly:**
Jesus doesn’t rebuke the disciples for their uncertainty; instead, He prepares breakfast and invites them into fellowship. (John 21:12)
* **The Eucharist as the New Meal:**
The breakfast scene prefigures the Eucharist, where Jesus feeds us not just with bread and fish but with His very Body. (John 21:13; CCC 1324)
* **Love Leads to Mission:**
Jesus’ repeated question to Peter, "Do you love me?" shows that genuine love for Christ overflows into service of His people. (John 21:15–17; CCC 1551)
* **Courage Through the Resurrection:**
The apostles, once fearful, now boldly proclaim Jesus because the Resurrection fills them with unstoppable hope. (Acts 5:29; CCC 659)
* **The Victory of the Lamb:**
Revelation reminds us that the Lamb who was slain now reigns. Our Christian lives are shaped by this same pattern: through suffering to glory. (Revelation 5:12; CCC 601)
* **Personal and Communal Call:**
Christ’s invitation is personal—He calls each of us by name. Our "Amen" at Communion is both acceptance of His gift and commitment to His mission.
* **Vocation Reminder:**
Fr. Greg marks his 6th anniversary of priestly ordination, highlighting the beauty of the priesthood and the ongoing call to pray for new vocations. (CCC 1564)

**Bible References:**

* **John 21:1–19** — Jesus' appearance at the Sea of Tiberias, the miraculous catch of fish, the call to Peter: "Do you love me? Feed my sheep."
* **Acts 5:27–32, 40b–41** — The apostles' courage before the Sanhedrin: "We must obey God rather than men."
* **Revelation 5:11–14** — Worship of the Risen Lamb: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain."
* **Psalm 30** — Praise for God's deliverance from sorrow to joy.

**Catechism References:**

* **CCC 1324** — The Eucharist as "the source and summit of the Christian life."
* **CCC 601** — Christ’s death as part of God’s plan of salvation: "He died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures."
* **CCC 659** — Christ’s Resurrection as His entrance into heavenly glory and ongoing action in the world.
* **CCC 1551** — The priesthood rooted in service, to feed Christ’s flock in His name.
* **CCC 1564** — Priests share in Christ’s mission as Head and Shepherd of the Church.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. **When have I, like Peter, been tempted to retreat into old habits instead of trusting in Christ’s new path for me?**
2. **How can I recognize Jesus "on the shore" of my life, calling me back to fellowship and mission?**
3. **Do I hear Jesus asking me today, "Do you love me?" — and how will I respond not just with words, but with action?**
4. **What mission or act of service is Jesus asking me to take on more courageously this week?**
5. **Am I praying for priests and vocations, recognizing the need for those who feed the sheep in Christ’s name?**

**Rhyme Summary**

When dreams fall apart and we don’t know what’s next,
Jesus appears and invites us to rest.
At the shore, He calls out with mercy and light,
Feeds us with love and renews us with might.
"Do you love me?" He asks — and sends us to care,
To feed and to serve with the love that we share.
The Lamb who was slain now reigns from above,
We follow His call with faith, hope, and love.

**Reasons to come to Mass each weekend**

**Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**Exodus 20:8** - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

**Luke 22:19** - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’"

**Acts 2:42** - "They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

**John 6:53-54** - "So Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

**Psalm 122:1** - "I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’"

**Matthew 18:20** - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

**Colossians 3:16** - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

**Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith**

* Check out the resource list available on [www.frmerkley.com](http://www.frmerkley.com)
* Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
* Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
* Formed: <https://formed.org/>
* The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
* Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
* Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
* The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
* Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
* EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
* The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
* Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
* CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
* The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
* Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
* Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>