

Easter – 3rd Sunday

Just a few quick words today...

- Our Gospel passage...
 - should have a familiar feel to it...
 - since all of the resurrection appearances...
 - that we hear during the Easter Season...
 - are all so similar.
 - There is a basic pattern to them:
- First Jesus appears...
 - Then there is fear or confusion...on the part of the disciples...
 - Remember...
 - that as He shows them His wounds...
 - they are coming face to face...
 - with the effects of their sin...
 - with the suffering and pain...that they too have caused.
 - But then there are words of reconciliation:
 - *“Peace be with you...”*
 - You are loved! You are forgiven!
 - And this is followed by...
 - a deeper faith...
 - and an incredible joy...
 - because conversion...is taking place...
 - deep in their hearts.
 - And we see this same basic pattern...over and over again.
- But why the repetition...
 - even with multiple appearances...
 - to the same disciples...
 - who continue to fail...at recognizing Jesus?
- I think it’s because...the Good News of our salvation...seems too good to be true!
 - So we need to hear it...
 - over and over again!
 - We need to hear:
 - You are loved...you are forgiven.
 - We need to hear:
 - that our suffering and pain...
 - when it’s united to Jesus Christ...
 - even that can bring about great good!
 - And we need to hear this...
 - over and over again...
 - because it’s so much easier to believe...
 - the whispering doubts...and discouragement of the devil...
 - than the forgiving and encouraging words...of our Savior.
 - In our fallen condition...
 - It’s easier to believe the lie...than the truth.

- And so...
 - whether we find ourselves...
 - in denial of our own sin...
 - or discouraged by its effects...
 - whether we are hard headed...
 - in denying that we need to be saved...
 - over and over again...
 - or hard hearted...
 - because of discouragement and doubt....
 - thinking that our sins...can never be forgiven.
 - Jesus Christ is coming to us today...
 - again...
 - to remind us of His merciful love.
- My brothers and sisters...
 - this is no ghost...no mere illusion...
 - and the offer is quite real...the resurrection is real...
 - sins can be forgiven...and our suffering redeemed.
 - All we have to do is repent...and accept that love...
 - over and over again.

Archbishop's Catholic Appeal Video