

Daily Mass Homily
17 April 2020
Easter Friday

“The Lord led his people in hope, while the sea engulfed their foes, alleluia.”

Reading 1: Acts of the Apostles 4:1-12

Psalm 118: **The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.**

Gospel: John 21:1-14

Homily for Easter Friday

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

HAPPY EASTER!

We continue our Octave celebration of Easter today on this Easter Friday with another story in which Jesus is revealing himself to the apostles and the first disciples. All week, we have encountered further accounts that Jesus's tomb was found empty. At first, people thought that maybe the temple guard took him to another place. The temple officials thought that the apostles took Jesus. Then, Jesus continued to reveal himself to the apostles by showing them his wounds, eating with them, showing us that he is not a ghost that he has indeed risen from the dead, with his body.

Today we again encounter a time in which Jesus is revealing himself to the apostles. They have been out fishing. What else are fishermen going to do?

They left this behind to follow Jesus and now Jesus is gone, so they are fishing once again. They have been fishing all night and have caught nothing. Not one fish. Then after they are coming in without a catch, Jesus was standing at the shore, yet they did not know that it was Jesus. He asks if they caught anything. No. So, Jesus tells them to cast the net on the other side. Within no time, the net was full of more fish than they could haul in. We are told that there were one hundred fifty-three large fish.

So many times, in our lives we are fishing and casting the net again and again off the same side of the boat and we come up with nothing. Not one fish, not one success, not one thing seems to go right. Then there is Jesus, maybe we don't recognize at first that it is Jesus, maybe he is disguised as a stranger that we encounter sometime in our day, or even in the words and support of someone that is not a stranger. In any case, He tells us to throw the net over the other side.

So often we want to do the same thing over and over again, expecting different results in return. This, I have been told, is a definition of insanity and yet each one of us does this again and again in our own lives. Maybe it is with a relationship or a series of relationships, or maybe it is in how we relate to our friends and family or to ourselves or our family history. Jesus is telling us to throw the net to the other side and to try something new. Let us call upon our risen Lord today to give us the strength to do something different and see if we can't catch our own one hundred and fifty-three large fish.