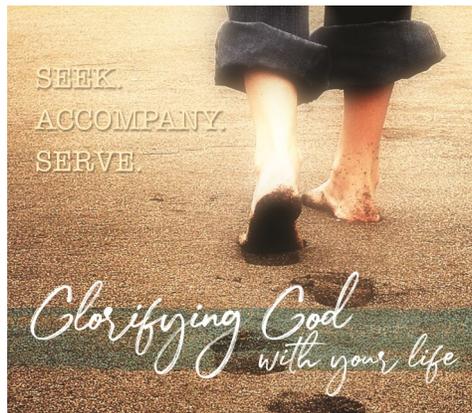


May 5, 2019
**THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



GOSPEL
JOHN 21:1-19

At that time, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We also will come with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord."

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught."

So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast."

And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord.

Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

He then said to Simon Peter a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."

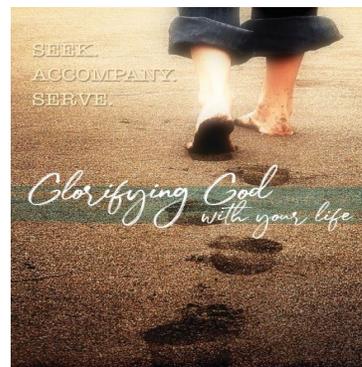
Jesus said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."



May 5, 2019

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



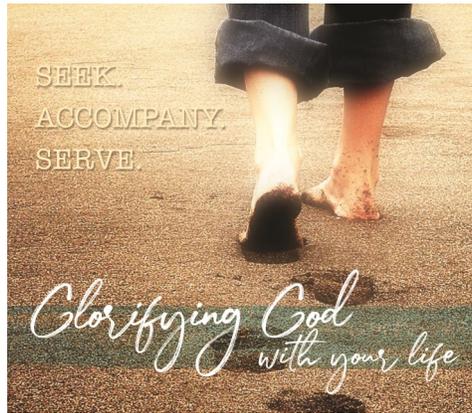
The Divine Love of Jesus is at the center of our being as Disciples. Let us bring his love forward, answering the Lord's Invitation to Seek, Accompany and Serve one another, glorifying God by our lives. This we pray, Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today's Gospel is a resurrection story. Two scenes are interwoven: the miraculous catch of fish which ends with Jesus feeding the disciples, and the questioning of Peter which ends with his being commissioned to feed God's flock. In giving authority to the one who denied him, Jesus wants to show that he is establishing his Church, not on human strength but on his own love and faithfulness.

The Good News is a call to humble boldness - the disciples proclaimed this when we hear them proclaim their obedience to God despite the consequence....it's that same humble boldness when Peter jump in the water without hesitation when he hears the Savior's voice....that is the same humble boldness we are called upon to practice.

1. Do you have the courage of Peter to say, "I must obey God rather than men?" Can you think of situations in your every day lives where we are challenged like Peter and the apostles?
2. Reflect on the last year and our journey as Disciples to Seek, Accompany and Serve. Share a story in which you acted to serve others with that "humble boldness" of a Disciple.
3. Follow me, Jesus says. How are you being called to bring heaven to earth – first, to take another step in your own spiritual journey. Second, how can you better "feed" his lambs and "tend" his sheep?
4. Discipleship is about God living and working *through us*. We are mission! Each week, we come together at Mass to be centered on that mission (the Gospel) and fed for the work ahead (the Eucharist). Mass ends on a missionary note -- we are sent out, commissioned to share the treasure we have discovered in Christ and the gifts God has given us with everyone we meet. Over the next few weeks, we will focus on how to answer the call to "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." What are your gifts / talents that you employ when you are on mission – to live out the action items you mentioned in question 3? What talents would you like to work on in the next year?



May 12, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOSPEL [JOHN 10:27-30](#)

Jesus said:

“My sheep hear my voice;

I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

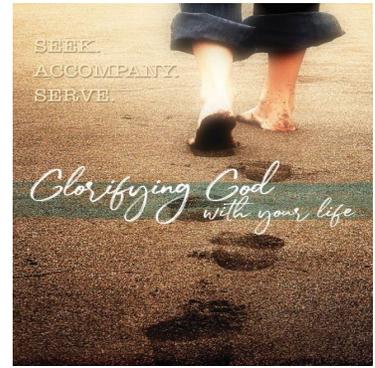


May12, 2019

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus is portrayed as shepherd and lamb who cares for his flock. In the Gospel, the Good Shepherd speaks of his relationship with his flock and with his Father. Jesus' flock are those who hear his voice and follow it. Then Jesus makes two bold promises:(1) he will give eternal life to those who are his sheep, and (2) he will not allow anyone to take them away from him, assuming of course that they continue to listen to his voice. Because Jesus has power over death, he can offer his followers eternal life.



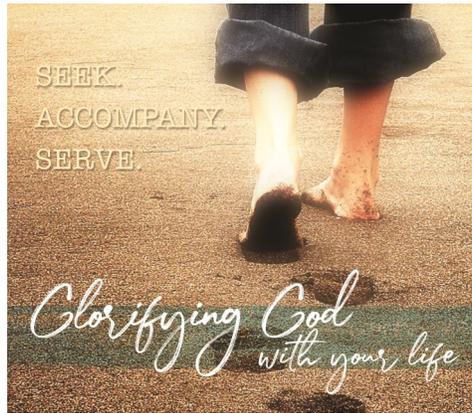
The Divine Love of Jesus is at the center of our being as Disciples. Let us bring his love forward, answering the Lord's Invitation to Seek, Accompany and Serve one another, glorifying God by our lives. This we pray, Amen.

1. Hearing is an essential component of discipleship. Hearing indicated attentiveness and obedience. What helps you to hear Jesus' voice in the midst of the sounds that compete for your attention?

2. This week we pause to know God is in our lives, to listen to his call. Next week we will commit to that call. To others, this can feel like an obligation, but Disciples know that *joy of serving*, about using their gifts to "be a gift" to others. Share a story about the joy of serving – or when others served you. Can you see how by your actions people see Jesus in you – and how through your active discipleship, others can get to know Jesus too?

3. Last week, we began the discussion of Discipleship and Glorifying God with our lives. We said: Discipleship is about God living and working through us. We are mission! Each week, we come together at Mass to be centered on that mission (the Gospel) and fed for the work ahead. (the Eucharist) Mass ends on a missionary note -- we are sent out, commissioned to share the treasure we have discovered in Christ and the gifts God has given us with everyone we meet. We will focus on how to answer the call to "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."

4. Listening to Gospels and the messages, having attended the MINISTRIES FESTIVAL, has your answer to this question changed or been reinforced: What are your "gifts" / talents that you employ when you are on mission, serving in ministry? What "talents" would you like to work on in the next year?



May 19, 2019

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
GOSPEL JOHN 13:31-33, 34-35

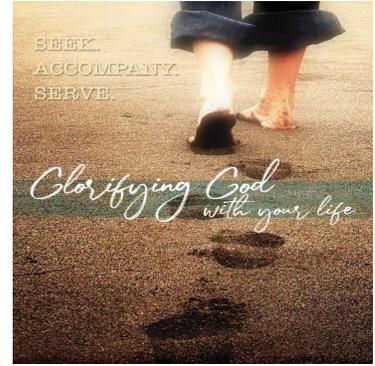
When Judas had left them, Jesus said,
"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is
glorified in him. If God is glorified in him,
God will also glorify him in himself,
and God will glorify him at once.

My children, I will be with you only a little while
longer. I give you a new commandment: love one
another. As I have loved you, so you also should
love one another. This is how all will know that
you are my disciples, if you have love for one
another."



May 19, 2019

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



The Divine Love of Jesus is at the center of our being as Disciples. Let us bring his love forward, answering the Lord's Invitation to Seek, Accompany and Serve one another, glorifying God by our lives. This we pray, Amen.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

All three Sunday readings speak about “newness.” The first reading speaks of new converts, the second reading about a new heaven and a new earth, and the Gospel about a new commandment of love.

In the Gospel, Judas departure sets the scene for Jesus’ last discourse and glorification. The die is cast; there is no going back now. Jesus’ hour has come. “The Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him.” The Son of Man is glorified both in his willingness to obey God even unto death and in the fact that God will glorify him by making his sacrifice effective for the salvation of all. By pouring out his life for us, Jesus not only saves us, but also gives us a perfect example of what love is. Jesus speaks to his disciples about a new commandment—to love one another.

1. In the first reading, Paul states that “it is necessary to undergo many hardships for us to enter the kingdom of God.” What are some of the hardships or trials involved in living a Christian life? What helps us to cope with them?
2. In the second reading, John speaks of God who will “wipe away our every tear.” Can you recall a teary time in your life when you experienced God or Jesus to be a consoling and comforting presence?
3. In the Gospel, the hour for the glorification of Jesus, and the glorification of the Father, had come! Jesus uses the term glorification 5 times! Our love for each other, like His, gives glory to the Lord.

We come full circle in our journey year of Seek, Accompany, Serve. Our first message series was built on the idea of understanding and taking the first steps to Love Our Neighbor (Love Where You Live). The greatest, most tangible sign of discipleship is the love Jesus’ disciples have for one another.

What are 3 concrete ways you can obey the new commandment to love others. Try them out this week, then come back next week to talk about how you did. Be ready to witness your story of discipleship in action.