

FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and Peace!



True devotion to Our Lady this month of May, *Queen of all hearts*, always provides a perfect way to imitate her, our powerful intercessor! Coming up on Saturday May 7th during the 10 am Mass our candidates for First Holy Communion this year will be receiving the Body and Blood of Our Lord. Everyone is invited to join and share in the joy of our parish, their parents, and their teachers. Our readings today confirm how God searches us out, never giving up even when man tries to evade Him. Recall, the disciples still in the upper room were not waiting for Jesus~He came looking for them! As pitiful humans, nevertheless God still comes looking for us.

In the First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, we see St Peter's transformation in response to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit – we grasp that although *we* may stumble in our faith like St Peter, we may yet receive the grace of intimacy with our Lord. At our baptism and confirmation, we all received this same Holy Spirit! In the highly visual Second Reading, John experiences the vision of the “Lamb that was slain,” our Lord, receiving adoration from the great multitude of witnesses in heaven.

Our Gospel reading this Sunday develops two understandings of the Easter season: the first is Jesus' frequent visits to his disciples, confirming his Resurrection such as sharing tangible breakfast with them. He appears to the apostles when *they were least seeking* him. Haven't you noticed in your lives that unusual moment when you received a revelation from our Lord, never having anticipated this grace?! The second part, that poignant dialogue between Jesus and Simon, appears to absolve Simon's triple denial of Jesus during the Passion when he is asked three times whether he loves Jesus. These two themes of fishing and shepherding are the expressions of the Church in her missionary work. Peter, the “fisher of men,” is seen to return to his earlier vocation of fishing just following the Resurrection. However, once again, he undergoes “divine mercy.” Peter, as a forgiven sinner, is chosen for the *quality* of his love to serve as leader in this profound community of friends. As Peter's primary mission, our Lord grants him the care of the vulnerable lambs and sheep, but also prepares Peter with the reality that fidelity to this mission will lead to his martyrdom.

As baptized Catholics who are having “a hallowed experience” in the Holy Eucharist with the Body and Blood of the Risen Lord, may we quietly embolden our First Communicants, keeping them in prayer. As we regard the Risen Lord in the various events and circumstances of our lives it can be a reminder from St Peter, that our Lord Jesus is not only present in our graces and consolations, but curiously also in our pains and suffering: Acts 9: 1-13. Remember, God allows certain uncomfortable circumstances to bring us closer to Him, so that in every event of our lives, we may realize His very presence.

The Lord is truly RISEN, alleluia, alleluia!

Happy Sunday!