

*“...the Lord says “Follow me”*

3rd Sunday of Easter  
April 18, 2010

Today's Gospel passage is a stunning piece of writing. It is a reprise of the original Gospel call of Peter, but this time understood and responded to in light of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

In the original call, the disciple left everything on the shore and followed Jesus. But Peter followed out of curiosity and attraction to this charismatic teacher who invited his company. It was like a great adventure filled with travel and promise of better days.

How different the second call on the seashore. The wounded disciple, in grief over his denial of the Lord he loved, has gone back to his fishing, his old way of life. As had happened some three years before, he caught nothing that night. When the Lord appears on the shore at dawn, once again He leads the disciples to a miraculous, stunning catch.

The Lord again strengthens His disciples by breaking bread with them. Then He offers Peter another chance. In inviting Peter's love, Jesus also asks him to prove it by loving service to His other disciples. Peter comes to realize that being "a fisher of men" does not mean overpowering them, but drawing them in through loving them and tending to their needs. He is also warned that he will share Jesus' fate in the kind of death he would die, as well as share in the new life of resurrection.

This time, when" a newly forgiven and redeemed Peter does so with understanding and open eyes. May we reach the point of following as well.

God bless you.

Fr. Pat