

May 5, 2019

From Fr. Jim . . .



About the Gospel: Again the risen Christ reveals himself to the disciples and teaches them what “rising from the dead” means. After the disciples lowered the net on the right side of the boat and caught a huge number of fish, Peter recognizes the person talking to them from the shore of the lake was the risen Lord. Peter jumps into the water and swims to the shore while the others follow in the boat with the fish. Jesus invites them all to breakfast. Quite simply, risen life means and demands that we must eat breakfast with the risen Lord!

In other words, we must open ourselves to receive all the gifts and grace that the Lord’s resurrection gives us. We want to be fortified and nourished by the Lord’s new life so that our response in following him is energetic, sustained and fruitful. Jesus gives us all the nourishment that we need in order to meet the demands of discipleship. By putting his life into practice and sharing his gift of resurrection with others, we make his risen presence known. We lead others to him and, in turn, invite them to breakfast. We feed others with the love and life of the risen Christ as God so abundantly and generously feeds us through his risen Son.

We love God and we show our thanks for sharing the risen life of his Son with us by feeding the flock. Every day, we must take care that our actions announce Jesus’ gift of nourishment at the same time that they speak of his goodness and care. This doesn’t mean that we always have to do something big but that we always do the little things well with selfless love and so reflect the risen life that dwells within us. Here at St. Leo’s, it might mean living any of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy as best as we can. It always means living Eucharist for others and saying yes to Jesus and risen life, no matter what our act of love is or when we choose to do it.

Please remember to continue to pray for those who are receiving the Sacraments of Initiation here, at St. Leo, during the Easter Season. Today (Sunday) at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Chains, more than forty adults and teenagers from Saint Leo will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. There are eleven infant Baptisms scheduled during the Easter Season as well as a few first communions. We give God thanks and glory for the gift of faith and for the new life that is ours from the risen Lord in and through the Sacraments of the Church.

Both Deacon Ben and I thank you for your generous hospitality and support for him during his journey to the Diaconate. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. Last week, we celebrated so very well God’s goodness in calling him to a life of service. It was truly a parish celebration and not only a great day for Ben and us but for the whole Church. The Church of God is truly blessed with Ben’s ministry and service. We are all honored and blessed to share his journey and help bring him this far. Many, many thanks and let’s continue to pray for one another.