

From the Pastor's Office

Third Sunday of Easter

The High Priest condemned the Apostles because their message about Jesus had spread all over Jerusalem. It was like the Apostles were driven. They had no fear. In this scripture we hear mention of the Holy Spirit for the first time. Clearly the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of God and Jesus breathed through the Apostles and compelled them to go forth and talk about nothing else but Jesus. The Apostles had a kind of manic quality, there was no stopping them. Even after the grilling they got from the Sanhedrin the Apostles were delighted that they got to suffer dishonor for the sake of Jesus' name. They got to share in His sufferings. That is something to think about, especially when we are suffering ourselves. What do you do with pain and suffering? You can offer that to God as your spiritual gift. By way of reparation you can offer your sufferings on behalf of all those who suffer with you. I love the gospel reading today. I have always had the belief that after what happened in Jerusalem, Peter went into a kind of depression. After all, he was the one with the big mouth telling everyone that he would never deny Jesus. He denied Jesus three times. My hunch is that Peter was even suicidal. While everyone was filled with joy Peter announced that he was going to go away by himself. I think Peter was on suicide watch. I say that because a couple of the other Apostles went with Peter, to keep an eye on him. The drama is wonderful. There they all are doing their fishing thing. The lads are over here but Peter sits by himself over there. There is no talk in him. He is deep into himself. Then they are distracted by this stranger calling them to come ashore and have some breakfast. Suddenly they recognize Jesus on the shore. The gang swim like crazy but Peter takes his time. When they all sat with Jesus Peter sat over there. Jesus came specially for Peter. It was necessary for Peter to find peace also. We have the lovely dialogue with Peter. Jesus teases Peter, "Feed my sheep." This goes on a few times until Peter became so exasperated with the attention. He is in no mood for light conversation. Privately Peter is despising himself. He let them all down, or so he thought. He is undeserving of being an Apostle of Jesus. Jesus has other plans for Peter. It doesn't help to be carrying regrets from the past. It is time to move on. There is work to be done. Peter will play a huge part in that work. But right now, it is time to give peace back to Peter. We are OK Peter.



With love,
Fr. Pat