

Third Sunday of Easter – 05/01/2022

In the gospel today we see the apostles, following Saint Peter's lead, going back to what they knew best – fishing.

They obviously didn't know what to do so they naturally fell back on the activities of their old life.

But Jesus appeared to them on the shore to strengthen them because they had an entire future of spreading the gospel ahead of them that the whole world was longing for.

We see the beginnings of their evangelical activities in the Acts of the Apostles which we are currently reading during this Easter Season.

Throughout these writings we see the stories of Jesus' apostles unfold and the many people who came to our Lord through their powerful witness.

Of course the gospel accounts precede the Book of Acts. So when we heard Jesus interrogate Saint Peter today with his three-fold question, "Do you love me?" culminating in his command to, "Follow me." this was Jesus pushing Saint Peter into a future that only God fully knew.

Jesus alluded to Saint Peter's past and future but all the details were left unsaid. Those details were up to Saint Peter to willingly fill-in as he followed Jesus.

We are called to the same throughout our own lives as we follow the Lord – to fill in the details of our mission to evangelize the world around us as disciples of Christ.

About a year ago we circulated the Disciple Maker Index Survey.

Too often though these things come and go without anyone ever really knowing if anything was ever accomplished.

But when we got our results we convened a small group to discuss the findings and one area that we determined that we could direct our focus was on sharing our own stories as disciples of Christ.

Consequently, one of the members on that committee shared her story and it was decided that we should contact Faith Magazine and see if they would be interested in her story especially since it had been brought up in the context of reviewing our DMI results.

And now everyone can read some of the story of one of our very own parishioners and her journey with Christ – kind of like our own local book on the acts of Jesus’ modern day disciples.

Jesus is active in all of our lives to strengthen us because we have an entire future ahead of us, a story that needs to unfold, a story that needs to be told, a story that the whole world is waiting for – at least the world immediately around us.

We need to think about our own stories. Perhaps it is for no other reason than as a reminder of how Jesus is and has been active in our lives.

At any rate, Jesus is asking us today, do we love him? and it is culminating in his command to follow him.

(Special Message to the First Communicants)

Perhaps this week we might take a few moments to think about how Jesus has been active in our own lives and maybe even write it down.

Who knows perhaps you may even decide to share it. At any rate we just never know who it will impact.