

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER 2022:
ANOTHER SECOND CHANCE!

Rarely do we get or give a second chance in life to a person who has wronged, disappointed, or made a mistake to us! It is much easier to write the person off...to not be associated with them...or to have nothing to do with them.

Jesus straightway could have written off Peter after he denied him three times at the hour he needed moral, psychological, and social support. But on the contrary. Instead He **restored him and made him the chief shepherd of His flock.** The same applied to the other apostles in spite of the fact that they had **left Jesus and doubted Him, He gave them all a second chance.**

Jesus doesn't write us off when we fail. He gives us a second chance and an opportunity to cancel out our **failures** through **love.** He trusts us in our weakness as human beings and gives us His **Grace to strengthen us,** so that we may be able to **manage the situations we are in.**

After the death of their master, the apostles' **dreams, hopes, and expectations** had been shattered by the violent crucifixion. They had hit the wall and their faith was shattered. Their going back to fishing was a sign of **desperation.** It seems that the reality of the Resurrection and total **belief** had not yet registered fully with them. They were going back to what was familiar to them in the past, the fishing as if nothing had changed in their lives.

They needed **revival as witnesses of life, death, and the Resurrection of Christ,** this is what Christ gave them in our Gospel today. He went after them in the **situation and environment** they were in, **into that cold water of the night, into the very sea,** even into their **desperation, where there was no catch of fish, and no breakfast to eat.** This is

where **The Good Shepherd** went after them and fished them out of their desperation bringing them to hope and trust again. The Good Shepherd will never leave his flock unattended. **He will reach them in any situation, and at any hour of the day...in whatever they have done... He was not after their past, He was after their future.**

These are the human beings Jesus found and established His Church with. It is among these **doubting and denying people** that the Faith (Good News of Jesus) managed to reach all the way to California, to England, Rome, Kenya, and to the rest of the world. They listened to Jesus and revived their belief. It is our **duty** and **responsibility** to now take over the **baton of spreading the Gospel** and **handing the faith over to the next generation.**

Jesus will always provide the means and ways to spread the truth of the Resurrection to the whole world. We need only to listen to him as the apostles did after reaching and revealing Himself to them that morning on the sea. ****Children, have you caught anything to eat? (Jn.21.5) He provided breakfast of fish and bread, He provided the warmth of a charcoal fire, and above all He provided His presence.*** This breakfast must have reminded them of the Last Supper, it must have reminded Peter of that dreadful cold night again with that charcoal fire when **he denied the Lord not once but three times**, yet Peter is given a second chance, and this time he **proclaims and confirms his love three times!** Now he is given a second chance with **duty and responsibility, **feed my lambs (Jn.21:15)... look after my sheep (21:16)...feed my sheep (21:18).*** What a duty and responsibility!

Don't we all need a second chance? And don't we all need to give others a second chance? The love of Christ pouring forth to us and through us will mean **taking care** of others **today. Taking care of our flock, children, family, parish, parents, spouse, aging-parents, friends,**

the sick, homeless, Ukrainian refugees, and all those in need. The call today is for love not only by word, but by action too.

This is the heavenly witness we are called to, it is one of worldly opposition, as it may cost us our popularity, a fake friendship, positions in society, and leisure time. Are we going to be **glad like the apostles?** In spite of all we give up, if we listen to the voice of the Lord, the **catch will be great.**

THROW THE NET ON THE RIGHT SIDE AND YOU WILL GET SOME!

(Jn 21:6)