

## **Homily: May 1, 2022**

By Fr. Virgil Petermeier, osc

Felices Pascuas! We celebrate the fifteenth day of Easter. I appreciate your Easter greeting, "Felices Pascuas." That plural Easter greeting reminds us that we must be Easter people. It reminds us that we must be the presence of the Risen Christ. We know that our words and actions do not always proclaim the presence of the Risen Christ. Therefore, we call upon our compassionate God.

The Risen Christ in this Gospel surprised me by already having a fire, fish and bread ready to eat. Risen Jesus took the initiative without being asked. He wanted to feed his disciples as a way of showing and sharing his love.

What is surprising is that the Risen Christ invited his disciples to bring some of the fish they had just caught. Jesus invited them to share their food and feed one another. He was teaching this first small Christian community of disciples to be men of love like him. Later in the Acts of the Apostles, we read how the disciples continued to share among themselves. Some of them sold some of their property and gave the profits to the apostles to help those among them who were poor.

The disciples were totally convinced that the Way of Jesus was the only good way to live. So they spoke about Jesus wherever they went. When the religious leaders in Jerusalem wanted to stop them, they said we can't stop talking about this good man. God wants us to proclaim Jesus. We must obey God more than any other human authority.

Today Jesus is asking us to bring some of our fish to add to his breakfast. What kind of fish can we add to the meal of the Risen Christ? Maybe I am called to add the fish of forgiveness. Perhaps Jesus hopes I can add the fish of unity by bringing people together. Perhaps Jesus is asking us to literally bring some food to the St. Vincents de Paul Center or to some soup kitchen for our homeless people.

Jesus wants us to be his Risen presence for others. So he is offering us breakfast this morning from this altar. Here he shares bread and wine once again, so that we can be his bright risen presence. The Risen Christ also wants us to see his risen presence in our sisters and brothers around us, no matter who they are. Christ is alive in us and among us. Alleluia (sing)