

## FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this third Sunday of Easter, our faith community joyfully congratulates our twenty-four candidates that received the Body and Blood of Our Lord for the first time last Sunday. May our welcoming reception continually remind them and every communicant of the fullness and privilege to be able to share God's love in the Holy Eucharist. Our readings today confirm how God searches us out, never giving up even when man tries to evade Him.

In the First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, we see the transforming impact from the outpouring of the Holy Spirit within the life of Peter – changing him from a man historically fearful of powerful men into a brave witness to the Resurrection. At our baptism and confirmation, we all received this same Holy Spirit. In the lyrical Second Reading, John experiences the vision of the “Lamb that was slain,” our Lord, receiving adoration from the great multitude of witnesses in heaven.

Our Gospel reading develops two understandings: Jesus' appearance to his disciples where his Resurrection is authenticated as he shares tangible breakfast with them. The second part, that poignant dialogue between Jesus and Simon, appears to absolve Simon's triple denial of Jesus during the Passion when asked three times whether he loves Jesus. The two metaphors used in the story, namely fishing and shepherding, are the functions of the Church in her missionary work. Peter, the “fisher of men,” sadly reverts to his earlier vocation of fishing just after the Resurrection. However, once again, he undergoes “divine mercy.” Peter, as a forgiven sinner, is chosen for the *quality* of his love to serve as leader in this profound community of friends. As Peter's primary mission, our Lord grants him the care of the vulnerable lambs and sheep, but also prepares Peter with the reality that fidelity to this mission will lead to his martyrdom.

As baptized Catholics who are having “breakfast” in the Holy Eucharist with the Body and Blood of the Risen Lord, may we quietly embolden our First Communicants. As we regard the Risen Lord in the various events and circumstances of our lives it can be a reminder that He is not only present in our graces and consolations, but especially in our pains and suffering: Acts 9: 1-13. Remember, God allows certain uncomfortable circumstances to bring us closer to Him, so that in every event of our lives, we may realize His very presence.

The Lord is truly RISEN, alleluia alleluia!

Happy Sunday!