

April 14, 2013  
Third Sunday of Easter

*Easter season file*  
(Series C)

St. John 21:12-14 (Gospel text)

*Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.*

## EASTER CONFIRMATION

Today is Confirmation Sunday for the seven disciples in our text, and for two of our young people forming the first brother-sister class in many years. There's something fishy on the Sea of Galilee! Count the miracles recorded by John:

- ***The great haul of fish***, which was remarkable considering the disciples who were fishermen had been fishing all night (v. 3) and caught nothing until Jesus – who was not a fisherman – told them where the fish were (v. 6), and they caught so many huge fish, they counted them – 153 to be exact! (v. 11).
- ***The fishing net not torn***, which was also remarkable since there were more than enough fish caught in the net when they threw it over the right side (v. 6), it should have been ripped to shreds! But the net was intact (v. 11); no rips, no runs, no snares.
- ***The charcoal barbeque on the beach***, definitely caught their attention since it already had broiled fish along with some bread (v. 9) ... and something else! Actually, someone else would be more accurate – they saw the risen Christ! This would be their third opportunity for an --

EASTER CONFIRMATION.

Look closer.

The menu is more than familiar; it is strangely reminiscent of an earlier miracle they had seen before. I'm sure each of them were thinking about the time that Jesus took a little boy's lunch – five barley loaves and two small fish (John 6:9) – and fed a hungry crowd late in the day of over five thousand people, not counting women and children. He was doing it again after the resurrection, feeding seven hungry disciples with bread and fish – tons of fish, 153 of them, more fish than they could eat in a month! This was another sign that the Lord had come to serve not to be served (Mk 10:45). What a great way to start the day ... a *happy meal* with the risen Christ ... all you can eat with --

EASTER CONFIRMATION.

I didn't know the risen Christ could cook ... or that he could fish.

I didn't know the risen Christ could live, breathe, eat, drink, and do all the things that people do when they are alive and well ... *after* he was crucified, dead, and buried!

I didn't know until the Scriptures gave me --

EASTER CONFIRMATION.

Life is confusing. There are so many signals to navigate. Sometimes we don't know if the truth is true until we believe it.

Little Jimmy took his Sunday school and confirmation lessons very seriously, sometimes a little too seriously. He heard the pastor say, "All people are made of dust and to dust they shall return when they die." Later that day, he crawled under his his bed and found a huge dust ball. "Mom," he cried. "Come quick! I think it's Uncle Harry, but I can't tell if he's coming or going."

Little lies are everywhere. Rumors, half-truths, theories, opinions, and hard-core falsehoods have tried to rain on the Christian parade from the very beginning. But they have failed to change the clear testimony of the Scriptures. John's purpose in our text is quite clear. He wants his readers to understand and believe that Jesus is the Christ, crucified and risen from the dead!

Here are his own words ...

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

St. John 20:30-31

The seven disciples knew who Jesus was. He could definitely cook. He knew where the fish were because he had made them. He was no stranger to the sea, either. He was the master and commander. Now he was back from the dead triumphant over sin and death, to show his disciples how they would be serving in his name. Not fish but people. Real people with problems just like them. Sinful people in need of food and faith just like them. *Come and have breakfast*, he said (v. 12). This was their --

EASTER CONFIRMATION.

*Gabriel* and *Autumn*, you know who Jesus is. In this congregation you know that he can definitely cook. Food is huge in this place ... and quite tasty, too. Your Sunday School teacher, *Mrs. Carol Rudig* taught you well. She made my job easy. You learned how important it was to be baptized *before* confirmation. Through your studies of the catechism you have learned how ...

- † **Holy Baptism** is the beginning of believing and having life in Jesus' name. In a divine combo of water with the Word of God, all your sins – including the inherited tendency to sin we are all conceived and born with – were washed away. The old sinful self was drowned and the new creation in Christ has risen!
- † **Confirmation** is the way our church recognizes the gift of faith in people who have studied the catechism like you have, and are prepared to affirm the Christian life you have been given.
- † **Holy Communion** is the sacred meal of Christ's body and blood in, with, and under what is bread and wine that is shared by the faith community. Like the seven disciples on the beach, we know the risen Christ has given himself for us on this --

EASTER CONFIRMATION.

Count two more miracles. Both are young and determined. One of them has an imagination; while the other strives for the perfect test score. They are definitely related, but at no time did either of them use that as an excuse. This has been an excellent class because the Lord enabled us the share and have life in his name. We may not know all the answers, but by grace through faith we have learned that our Lord is much happier with us when we learn from his Word how to ask better questions for --

EASTER CONFIRMATION.

This is the Lord's day.

Studying the six chief parts of Christian doctrine is one thing; making them work for good in your life is what being a disciple of the risen Christ is all about. I believe he came back from the dead for one reason. Not to cook or to fish, but to give us his power to live in his name. Without him, we are nothing. We might come up with fantastic stories about turtles in outer space, but without the risen Christ, it won't matter. We may know all the right answers, but without the risen Christ, it won't make any difference. In order for the life of faith to make sense we need --

EASTER CONFIRMATION.

**Christ is risen!** (*response:*) **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Remember to pray.

Think of it this way. Look at your hand.

- The *thumb* is the closest to you. Pray for those dear and near to us: father, mother, sister, brother, grandparents, relatives, and friends.
- The *index finger* is the teacher, pointing to the truth. Pray for pastors and teachers, professors, counselors, and advisors.
- The *tall finger* is like very important people in life. Pray for our leaders, the president, officials, authorities, and public servants.
- The *ring finger* is not as strong as the others. Pray for the weak, those who are sick or suffering in any way, those who are hungry or thirsty, hurt or helpless, and in need.
- The *little finger* is like you, very little compared to the rest of the world. Pray for yourself, too. You are loved and forgiven for the sake of Christ who died and rose again to save you from your sins and give you --

*(revised from Carl W. Berner, At Home Away, page 101)*

EASTER CONFIRMATION.

May you have life.

In Jesus' Name,  
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