

# The Good News

Volume 5, Issue 42

The Catechetical Newsletter of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Monday, April 16, 2007

## The Readings for This Sunday

- Third Sunday of Easter
- April 22, 2007
- First Reading: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41
- Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13
- Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14
- Gospel: John 21:1-19

## Power Verse to Memorize

Memorize the following verses from this Sunday's Second Reading:

Revelation 5:12. *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing.*

The New American Bible, (Nashville, Tennessee: Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) 1997.

## Weekly Scripture Reflection

By Eric J. Westby

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*Use these reflections to help you prepare for Mass this Sunday. You can use it on your own, with your family, with a prayer partner, or in any group setting.*

### Summary of the Gospel:

If Jesus can forgive St. Peter for denying Him, what's your excuse for not letting Jesus forgive you? This Gospel passage shows us how God reaches out to us, how He hounds us, even if we have sinned and denied we even know Him. Jesus again appears to His disciples, but this time we see that He goes to them on their 'turf'...or should I say 'surf'. A group of disciples, including St. Peter, have gone back to their old life. They went back to fishing. St. Peter was a professional fisherman, and since he had no clear 'next' direction in life, he decided to go back to the old grind of making a living. So as St. Peter finds himself on familiar waters, his life is about to take a new form and direction. He's about to have his world (not just his boat) rocked. Jesus, standing on the shore watching the disciples, appears to them at a distance. He offers them a little fishing advice, and lo and behold the disciples can't contain all the fish they have caught. This is enough for the beloved disciple to recognize the handiwork of Jesus, and the disciples race to be with Him. As they arrive to meet the Lord, they see He has started a fire. (Why would Jesus start a fire? So He could eat with them, further proving to them that He is alive and well. Important point: Dead people don't eat.) They eat breakfast together, then

Jesus has what must have been a painful but life-changing conversation with St. Peter. Only recently had St. Peter denied Jesus three times that he knew the Lord. Jesus then asks St. Peter three times if he loved Him. This distressed St. Peter, and perhaps St. Peter felt like Jesus was throwing his denial back in his face. This wasn't Jesus' intention at all. Jesus was inviting St. Peter to rebound from his denial and fully come back to the Lord. This is a story about St. Peter's ability to be spiritually reunited with the Lord, and then to grow deeper to Him through a special calling. It helped catapult him to his ministry as head of the Apostles. Yet at the core of this calling was the simple invitation that comes to us all from Jesus: Follow me. Many times we struggle with following Jesus completely. This shouldn't allow us to worry, for we're in good company. St. Peter struggled to follow Jesus. Yet in the midst of St. Peter's struggles, he learned how to forgive himself and obey the Lord above all else in his life. You and I should never be afraid to do what is right, no matter the mistakes we have made. St. Peter is a great example endurance and resilience. Even though we may be down, let us ask God for the grace to be courageous, to do what we need to do to stay faithful to Him, and allow God to work wonders through us, just as He did with St. Peter. Look what it did for St. Peter: It made him the first Pope. Don't underestimate God's plan for your life – your 'yes' to Him could change the world.



### Discussion Questions based on this Sunday's Gospel:

1. What do you think the other disciples were thinking when Jesus confronted St. Peter about his love for the Lord? Describe.
2. What characteristics of Jesus' resurrected body are displayed in this passage? List as many as you can.
3. St. Peter shows us how to rebound from sin and give our lives back completely to God. Do you allow God to love you, even when you have failed Him? When was the last time you went to the Sacrament of Confession? What (if anything) is keeping you from making a confession this Easter Season? Make a commitment this Easter Season to make a Confession and experience God's healing love.
4. Access the Sunday Readings at: <http://www.usccb.org/nab/042207.shtml>.