

## WSC REFLECTION GUIDE

<b>Readings:</b> Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter April 18, 2010
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<b>Word:</b>	<b>Believers in the Risen Christ seek heavenly things.</b>
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>We seek heavenly things when we truly care for others.</b> [Caring]
<b>Promise:</b>	<b><i>“Cast the nets over the right side of the boat and you will find something.”</i></b> (John 21:6)

### Reflection:

Over the past week, we have seen the many occasions when Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection. This gospel from John recounts how Jesus reveals himself yet again to them. This time, the setting is the Sea of Tiberias where the disciples have been fishing all night without bringing in a catch. It seemed that for them, it was business as usual, as if nothing had happened to change their lives.

At daybreak, Jesus is standing on the shore, but none of His disciples recognize Him. He advises them to cast their net on the other side for a catch and they caught so much fish, their nets were tearing. Fishermen go out to sea at night because that is when fish are easy to catch, not in daylight. The Lord was giving His apostles the gift of a second chance. On the shore, meanwhile, Jesus is cooking some fish over a charcoal fire and invites them to *“Come, have breakfast”*. Again it is in the breaking of bread and sharing of a meal that the Risen Christ reveals himself.

Jesus takes Peter aside and asks him the same question thrice, corresponding to Peter’s three-time denial of Christ when He stood before Pilate. *“Do you love me?”* he asks, and Peter answers *“I do.”* Jesus persists, not content to hear Peter’s avowal only once. With each answer from Peter, Jesus gives him instructions: *“Feeds my lambs,” “Tend my sheep,” “Feed my sheep.”* Peter was being asked to take care of the flock, giving him an opportunity to proclaim and prove his love and loyalty to the Risen Christ, and reclaim the authority he lost with his denial. He is given the commission to guard and care for the whole flock in Christ’s name. And Peter will do exactly that for the rest of his life as the Vicar of Christ, the chief shepherd through whom Christ will always be present in his Church, guiding it through the hierarchy, and drawing all men to himself.

Two thousand years ago, the Church was commissioned for her great work by the Lord, while 25 years ago, the BLD Covenant Community was made a vessel by which the Lord can manifest His presence among us, giving us the task and active role to be fishers of men, assisting the Church in her work of salvation.

One of the gospel’s sub themes is Care, the biblical foundation of BLD’s Pastoral Care Program through which, members of the Community express or respond to God’s covenant of love by nurturing and caring for one another, and bringing to full maturity in Christ all those whom the Holy Spirit has entrusted to us. BLD’s Pastoral Care Program empowers disciples and aspiring disciples to live the life of the Spirit by:

- a. Shepherding them to maturity in Christ through the exercise of their natural and spiritual gifts;
- b. Enabling them to overcome problems and afflictions in their daily personal, family, vocational and community life.
- c. Training them to minister to one another's material, psychological and spiritual needs.
- d. Cultivating Christian stewardship in their personal, family, vocational and community life; developing sound personal relationships based on sacrificial love born of the fruit of the Spirit.

The Word Sharing Circle (WSC) is the primary forum for the BLD Pastoral Care Program, since the spirit of intimacy is best promoted among people who have learned to regard each other with openness and respect. It is necessary for the WSC to have a semblance of permanence with regards to its membership, as well as a regular weekly meeting. We are called to care for our portion of the flock – our family, people at work, in community, and those whom the Lord calls us to care for. We show our love not through what we say, but what we do.

The challenge Christ presented to Peter – *“Do you love me more than these others do?”* is the same challenge facing us. And the Church will gather into one unbroken net, men and women of every race, color and nationality. Like the apostles, we are all summoned by Jesus to extend God's kingdom everywhere.

To be faithful to the ideals of the gospel requires courage because it is never easy to do. All of us can find some way, whether modest or spectacular, important or insignificant, in which we can be helpful to others. We are presented with daily opportunities to help the elderly, listen to the bereaved and to give human contact to the lonely provided we are willing to take the time. This Sunday leads us to the promise of the Lord: *“We seek heavenly things when we care for others.”*

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, people who listen to your Word follow the Risen Christ. Grant us the courage to trust that you are with us as we respond to your call to cast our nets and care for our share of the flock. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen.

**Suggested Personal Reflection Guide:**

1. Are you a believer of the Risen Christ? Are you an Easter person, challenged to care for others? Who are the Easter people in your life?
2. As a disciple of Christ and member of the BLD community, have you exercised your basic role in the pastoral care program? How does it affect you?

**Next Week's Daily Mass Reading Guide:**

April 19, 2010 (Mon):	Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29
April 20, 2010 (Tue):	Acts 7:51 - 8:1; Ps 31:3-4, 6-8, 17, 21; Jn 6:30-35
April 21, 2010 (Wed):	Acts 8:1-8; Ps 66:1-7; Jn 6:35-40
April 22, 2010 (Thur):	Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51
April 23, 2010 (Fri):	Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1, 2; Jn 6:52-59
April 24, 2010 (Sat):	Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

***“Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!”***