

### Third Sunday of Easter (c)

Today's Gospel tells us that God is in search of man, even when he tries to evade Him. The apostles had been fishing all night and they caught nothing. As the sun was coming up, Jesus appeared to them with breakfast ready for them. It was Simon Peter's decision to go to fish. The other disciples joined him: They were all experts in fishing. They were all together again, but Jesus was missing. They went out fishing, but they didn't set out listening to Jesus' call, but following Simon Peter's initiative. The narrator makes it clear that this work was done at night and ended up fruitless: «*that night they didn't catch anything*». Without the presence of the Risen Jesus, without his encouragement and his guiding, nothing is fruitful. So, today's gospel reminds us that without Jesus we can do nothing.

We need to open our eyes, ears and hearts wide to see, hear and experience the Risen Lord coming into our lives, in various forms, circumstances and events: Jesus blessed the disciples with the miraculous catch of fish and he blessed the hungry disciples preparing breakfast for them. The master prepares food for the hungry disciples. The Risen Lord blesses us also with success and achievements. We often fail to acknowledge the presence of the Risen Lord behind our unexpected successes, great achievements, promotions at work, miraculous healing, and success in relationships. 2) The Risen Lord is present in our pains and suffering: He visits us through our friends and well-wishers: and encourages us in our sad and desperate moments. He visits us in the form of unexpected help from the least expected persons in our dire needs. He is right there in our parties, celebrations and

occasions of rejoicing. He is present in our Christian worship: He is present on our altars during the Holy Mass to share His life with us; He is present in the words of Holy Scripture; He is there in the sacraments and He is there where two or three are gathered in his name. So we must experience the presence of Jesus in every aspect of our life.