

**APRIL 10, 2016**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN EASTER**

"AMEN, AMEN, I SAY TO YOU,  
WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER,  
YOU USED TO DRESS YOURSELF AND GO  
WHERE YOU WANTED; BUT WHEN YOU GROW OLD,  
YOU WILL STRETCH OUT YOUR HANDS,  
AND SOMEONE ELSE WILL DRESS YOU AND LEAD YOU  
WHERE YOU DO NOT WANT TO GO."

HE SAID THIS SIGNIFYING BY WHAT KIND OF DEATH  
HE WOULD GLORIFY GOD. AND WHEN HE  
HAD SAID THIS, HE SAID TO HIM, "FOLLOW ME."

- JN 21:18-19

### CHURCH MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT ITEMS ACCOMPLISHED:

- Two rows of new pews in the rear of the church
- Floor refinish under the new pews
- Water damaged paint repair in the arch above piano and on the north wall above baptismal font
- Painting of inside of both church entries
- Painting of the Padre Pio chapel
- Painting on the base of the columns and the baseboards of church
- Cleaning and painting of the women's restroom in the church basement
- Repairs on the bottom of the altar and the president's chair; repair of the candlesticks at the altar
- Professional cleaning of the sanctuary floor

All of these items were organized and paid for by our parish Church Beautification Committee:

**Hope Freund**

**Nancy Jones**

**Sandra File**

**Nora Murphy**

My deepest and heartfelt gratitude to these parish sisters for their dedication, generosity, and love of our church!

— Fr. Jeff

# BREAD to Offer



## THE LORD HAS RISEN!

By Fr. Barnabas Eichor, OFM, Cap.

Jesus Christ has Risen, Alleluia! Alleluia! No matter what the headline of the daily news is today, we've got bigger news: Jesus Christ has risen. That is the headline; here is the story: In the beginning God made us. Then we separated ourselves from God—the source of life itself—and brought death into our world and into our lives. Then God, out of his love for us, refused to accept the destruction we brought onto ourselves, so he sent his Son, who became one of us and died for us. Then the Lord rose from the dead. And He still loves us. No news, domestic or foreign, is more interesting than that. Two-thousand years ago, Peter declared to the nations the Good News of Jesus Christ and that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.

What an amazing offer: forgiveness of sins through his name! Jesus crossed over to the realms of death and brought back victory through his Cross. And what a victory! What else could we want!

Two-thousand years ago, those to whom Peter spoke received this news with joy. This was the answer to a question which consumed their lives. Christianity grew from a handful of people to two billion strong. Has this message lost its power now? Can news that is two-thousand years old still be news? At our Easter vigil six people—Shannon, Danny, Kirsty, Carol, Megan and Todd—were welcomed into the Church. The news of love and forgiveness still has power. This good news is still powerful. It is the only solution to our problems. So long as sin remains in the world, we will need the Lord's love and forgiveness. So long as sin has power in our souls, we will need the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of both our bodies and our souls.

The resurrection is not only about something that happens after we die. The Resurrection is taking place right now in our lives. It is the potential for our lives to be different, to be amazing, for us to be saints living lives of love and joy.

If the Resurrection of Jesus Christ was only about an innocent man recovering from death, we would be happy for him. But if the Resurrection signifies that Jesus Christ went down to Hell and destroyed the power of death and ascended to Heaven ... then God is victorious, and his victory, because it was all done for us, is our victory as well. Happy Easter!!

—Fr. Barnabas

Dear Sisters and Brothers, if you can find a way to work it out, I would like to encourage you to consider attending the annual Dialogue and Friendship dinner to be held at the Kansas Union Ballroom on Wednesday evening, April 20th at 6:00 p.m. The Dialogue Institute is an initiative of the Islamic Community here in the U.S. and is committed to establish dialogue and relationships with different religions in order to dispel any misconceptions that any religious group or denomination may have of one another. From their website:

**The Dialogue Institute engages religious, civic, and academic leaders in practicing the skills of respectful dialogue and critical thinking, building and sustaining transformative relationships across lines of religion and culture. It provides resources and creates networks for intra- and interreligious scholarship and action that value difference and foster human dignity.**

This year's topic is especially timely as it addresses extremism. You can contact the Kansas City DI website for more information. — Fr. Jeff

## Wake up to a deeper understanding of your faith: ST. JOHN CAFÉ

Please join us for St. John Café every Sunday between the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. St. John Café is an opportunity to have time in fellowship with your fellow parishioners in a relaxed environment with good coffee, pastries, and engaging conversation on the Catholic faith moderated by one of the parish priests. You can ask all those burning questions!

**St. John Café is every Sunday from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m. in the St. Bosco Room**, located in the lower level of the school (unless noted in the bulletin or weekly email). You can drop in any time and all are welcome (bring your kids)! Invite your friends!

**Do I have to come every session?** Although we would love for you to do so...  
No, you can come and go as it is convenient for your life.  
Each session is something new!

**Who should go?** All are welcome (including small children)!

**What is the format?** **First 15 minutes:** Fellowship, coffee, and pastries  
**After That:** Q&A about the topic of your choice or designated topic

If you have any questions please contact Samantha Romero at [sromero@saint-johns.net](mailto:sromero@saint-johns.net) or (785) 843-0109.



# STEWARDSHIP *Spotlight*

## THE POWER OF EVANGELIZATION

From time to time you hear a story that impacts you. I recently heard one such story from a parishioner who just happened to stop by the office. She was looking for an extra copy of Rediscover Jesus by Matthew Kelly (the book we are reading as a parish). I asked her how she liked the book and it began a great conversation.

She shared with me that she had been in a grocery store recently and had bumped into a young man. They were looking at the same fruit and that discussion somehow led to a conversation about him not being perfect. This parishioner quickly shared that no one was perfect except of course for Jesus. Also that Jesus loved us for all those imperfections because he created us purposely that way. She then asked if he knew about Jesus.

Can you imagine hearing this question or even asking this question? Her bravery to share Jesus' love is what touched me the most.

Upon asking this young man this question he said he wanted to know more. So she asked him if she gave him a book if he would read it. If he would really read it and not throw it to the side. He gave her his word. She then pulled out a copy (her copy) of Rediscovering Jesus. He took it and thanked her with the biggest hug he could give. They both teared up genuinely moved by what had just happened. She may never run into this man again, but she has left some imprint on his heart. Isn't this what Jesus meant when he said "to love others as he has loved us."

I can't help but think that this may be the mustard seed that this young man needed to "rediscover" what he means to Jesus. This parishioner's obedient response to listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit could have changed the course of this man's life forever!

It reminded me to never dismiss the power of a smile, a kind word, or yes even sharing a book with someone. We continue to read Rediscover Jesus as a parish. Our hope is it sparks a zest to walk more closely with Jesus. We invite you to share this book with someone or talk about a point that speaks to you. We have additional copies in the church if you never received one or know someone who could use the encouragement.

We have all been commissioned to be "the light" to our brothers and sisters around us. As Jesus said, in Matthew 28:19-20 "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.\*And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

### JUSTICE MATTERS

Over 400 people from 21 faith groups attended the Solutions Briefing on March 31. There was a proposal to add another issue to our agenda for the April 13 Nehemiah Action Assembly. A brief overview follows.

The evolution from "mental health" as a priority into research on criminal justice reform is the product of forces outside the control of Justice Matters. The Douglas County Commission unanimously agreed recently that the decision whether to fund the creation of a Mental Health Crisis Center and to expand the Douglas County jail will be packaged together as an "all or nothing" vote.

Justice Matters' Mental Health Research Committee has been investigating the proposed jail expansion ever since it became clear that the fate of the crisis center is connected to the jail.

At the Solutions Briefing network members voted overwhelmingly to add the priority of criminal justice reform to ensure safe and effective alternatives to incarceration are considered before the jail expansion plan is brought before the public for a vote. The overall goal is to not only end up with a "jail we can be proud of", but more importantly a "local criminal justice system that we can be proud of".

Justice Matters members believe this goal is similar to the aspirations of the County Commission and look forward to creating ballot language that accomplishes our mutual interests.

#### **Nehemiah Action Assembly: April 13**

Doors of the Lied Center open at 6 pm and the program will begin promptly at 6:30 pm. Anyone who wants a ticket to attend should contact Pat Lechtenberg [plek10berg@aol.com](mailto:plek10berg@aol.com) or call 842-1992.

Come support the solutions being presented to decision makers on the issues of criminal justice reform, the creation of a mental health crisis center, affordable housing and childhood trauma.

### DINING FOR WOMEN

The Lawrence Dining for Women chapter will meet for dinner on **Tuesday, April 19th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Villas clubhouse. The Villas clubhouse address is 5630 Villa Drive.

Dining for Women is a dinner giving circle. We "dine in" together once a month or so, each bringing a dish to share and our "dining out" dollars are sent to international programs empowering women and girls. It is a wonderful way to meet other women in the community while supporting a critical cause.

Bring a friend and join us for incredible food and fellowship as we change the world one dinner at a time!

This month's program is described at the website:

[www.handsinoutreach.org](http://www.handsinoutreach.org).

To learn more about our organization go to [diningforwomen.org](http://diningforwomen.org) or contact Ann Chapman at (785) 865-6876 or [achap@ku.edu](mailto:achap@ku.edu).

### REDISCOVER JESUS: WEEKLY REFLECTION

*(If you do not have a copy of the book, Rediscover Jesus, you can pick one up for free at the parish office.)*

**Point to Ponder:** The poor, the needy, the hungry, the lonely, the ignorant, and the afflicted are God's special friends.

**Verse to Live:** "Live justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God." {Micah 6:8}

**Question to Consider:** Do your values align with Jesus' values?

**Prayer:** Jesus, set the child within me free so I can be more childlike with every passing day, and open the eyes of my soul that I may see your children all around me.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

*Preserving Our Past ... Building Our Future!*

Thank you to all for your generosity over the last few weeks. We are excited to announce we have reached:

**\$2,594,732.00!**

We are still moving forward to reach our \$3.3 million goal. If you have not pledged you can reach out to Samantha in the parish by phone at **(785) 843-0109** or by email: [sromero@saint-johns.net](mailto:sromero@saint-johns.net).



## TEEN NFP INFO NIGHT

All teenage ladies are invited, with a parent or guardian.

**Wednesday, April 13, 2016**

St. John the Evangelist Catholic School

**6:30 p.m.**

Presented by Shannon Rasmussen,

CCL Teacher of Natural Family Planning

To RSVP or ask questions, please contact Shannon.

**(785) 749-1015**

[johnandshannonr@yahoo.com](mailto:johnandshannonr@yahoo.com)

### Topics to be discussed include:

- Anatomy of the male and female bodies
- What does a healthy fertility cycle look like?
- Why is understanding the natural cycle important to teenagers?
- How can knowing the fertility signs as a teenager better indicate the overall health of the person?
- God's design vs. manufactured products
- Birth control—what are the different types? What are the drawbacks?
- Recognize that the fertility cycle is a natural part of a healthy female body and is something to appreciate
- Answers to questions regarding God's design for sex in marriage and using Natural Family Planning in marriage to avoid or achieve a pregnancy.

## ST. JOHN RUMMAGE HOUSE

The Saint John Rummage House is run by volunteers from the Saint John Community and is in need of new volunteers to help keep the ministry thriving. Volunteers work both during store hours and behind the scenes when the store is closed.

Sorting crews work Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. The store is open Wednesdays 11-3, Thursdays 1-4, and Saturdays 8:30-12:30. We could use volunteers to fill any of these positions, but are especially in need of volunteers for Thursday afternoons, one or two Thursdays per month.

If you are interested in helping the parish community with this ministry, please email Lee Ann Hartwick ([Hartwick@saint-johns.net](mailto:Hartwick@saint-johns.net)) for more information.

## DAILY ADORATION IN THE PADRE PIO CHAPEL

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 6AM—10PM

The Padre Pio Chapel is located inside the north entrance of St. John Church. It is open for anybody to come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament during these hours. If you can schedule a weekly hour, please email Brandon Volz at: [mrbrandonvolz@gmail.com](mailto:mrbrandonvolz@gmail.com)

## SCHEDULE A WEEKLY ADORATION HOUR

Though it is not necessary to schedule a time to visit the Padre Pio chapel for adoration, this ministry does depend on volunteers to be present with the Holy Eucharist at all available hours. Please consider adding an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament to your weekly schedule. We currently need adorers for the following times:

Monday: 7:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

Thursday: 7:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

Friday: 7:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m.

If you can schedule a weekly hour, please email Brandon Volz at: [mrbrandonvolz@gmail.com](mailto:mrbrandonvolz@gmail.com)

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Come receive the sacrament of reconciliation in the Padre Pio chapel during the following times:

**Wednesdays:** 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Saturdays:** 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Or by appointment - Call **(785) 843-0109** to schedule one, or email: [frjeff@saint-johns.net](mailto:frjeff@saint-johns.net) or [frbarnabas@saint-johns.net](mailto:frbarnabas@saint-johns.net)

## PRAYER LIST

The "Prayer List" includes the most recent information that the Simon Parish Center has about a parishioner and/or their family member. Contact the Simon Parish Center to request someone for the "Prayer List" and be sure to update the Parish Center monthly regarding their condition or the name will be removed.

**Matthew Arellano**  
**Samantha Bell**  
**Katie Benton**  
**Mariele Berthold**  
**Craig Bogley**, husband of Judy Carpenter  
**Remi Brown**  
**Dale Brueggeman**, husband of Debbie Filkins  
**Martha Cares**  
**Chris Crandon**  
**Don Erker**  
**Terry Hadl**  
**Jenny Hernandez**  
**Lily Hollister**, niece of Tom Kellogg  
**Bob Holek**  
**Nancy Hubble**, wife of Tom Kellogg  
**Susan Jones**, sister of Patti Fisher  
**Diana Mathews**  
**Marianne Fabac Means**  
**Dee Myers**  
**Julie Patterson**, niece of Norb & Jeanette Otter  
**Max Polson**  
**Fred Posch**  
**Dorothy Purdy**  
**Marlene Richard**  
**Tony Romero**  
**Eli Rohrbaugh**  
**Mark Salamans**  
**Michael Schurer**, son of Mick Schurer  
**Mary Kay Seidl**  
**Ruth Theising**  
**Shannon Tuckwin-Rolland**

## MINISTERS: APRIL 16-17

### Lectors

Contact: Sean Smith  
 seanj@ku.edu

### Cantors

**Saturday**  
 4:30pm ..... L Koster

**Sunday**  
 7:00am ..... M Steichen  
 8:30am ..... A Koster

### Eucharistic Ministers

**Saturday**  
 4:30pm ..... D Depenbusch, D Guth, K Guth  
 ..... J Halderman, L Heiserman, A Hewitt

**Sunday**  
 7:00am ..... B Menke, B Osborne, L Wustefeld  
 8:30am ..... First Communion  
 11:00am ..... J&N Otter, D Shobe  
 ..... P Smith, S Stewart, D Thimmesch  
 ..... L Tiffany  
 5:00pm ..... L Brey, S File, N Jones  
 ..... M LeGresley, C Malone, A McCabe

### Altar Servers

**Saturday**  
 4:30pm ..... B Thomas, P Price

**Sunday**  
 7:00am ..... N Hope, J Hope  
 8:30am ..... First Communion  
 11:00am ..... E Bellerive, S Wondrack,  
 ..... B Wilkerson  
 5:00pm ..... L Schmidt, O Schmidt

## MASSES: APRIL 11-17

**Monday**  
 7:30am ..... Gayla Barnes

**Tuesday**  
 7:30am ..... Danny Wells

**Wednesday**  
 7:30am ..... Sally Rowell†

**Thursday**  
 7:30am ..... Charles & Anna Laskowski†

**Friday**  
 7:30am ..... Mary James†

**Saturday**  
 8:00am ..... Red Stout†  
 4:30pm ..... Lorraine Hamer†

**Sunday**  
 7:00am ..... Thomas Garcia†  
 8:30am ..... Bernadette Lee  
 11:00am ..... Ben & Therese Casteel†  
 2:00pm (Spanish) ..... St. John Parish  
 5:00pm ..... Dorothy Purdy†

## WEEKLY GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2015  
 through June 30, 2016

Information below  
 reflects donations received  
 July 1, 2015 through March 27, 2016.

Budgeted weekly amount ..... \$30,692.31  
 Average weekly amount ..... **\$28,258.58**  
 Budgeted YTD ..... \$1,166,307.78  
 Actual YTD ..... **\$1,073,826.08**  
 Net Shortage ..... \$92,481.70

## RESERVING SPACE

Parishioners, if you would like to reserve a location on the St. John Church for an event or meeting, you must contact Ellen Sickinger:

(785) 843-0109 [esickinger@saint-johns.net](mailto:esickinger@saint-johns.net)

To inquire about space in St. John School, contact Linda Alexander:

(785) 843-9511 [alexander@saint-johns.net](mailto:alexander@saint-johns.net)

## MAY CROWNING

We will have a May Crowning on May 1 at the 11am Mass. If you would like your children to be part of the processional please contact Samantha Romero at [sromero@saint-johns.net](mailto:sromero@saint-johns.net) or (785) 843-0109. Please indicate how many children and their ages.

Following the 11am Mass there will be cake and punch served in celebration of the month of Mary! All are welcome!

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

The next Knights of Columbus Meeting will be Thursday, April 14. Social and dinner, provided by the Knights, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Location is the basement of St. John Church. Our council meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.

Anybody interested in becoming a Knight should contact Grand Knight Kevin Oneslager at (785) 840-9406.

On the first Friday of each month, the Knights host a rosary in St. John Church at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend!



## PRÓXIMO RETIRO DE CONVALIDACIÓN

Marzo 5-6, 2016 en el Ministerio Hispano. Por favor registrar las parejas con la forma apropiada en español y pagar los \$60 una semana antes del retiro.

## RECICLAGE

Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parroquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota. Gracias.

## MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA

¿Te gusta cantar? ¿Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al **(785) 218-1511**.

## CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO

A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir por nuestras necesidades y por los que amamos; también si alguno de sus parientes fallece podemos hacer el novenario, nos vemos los lunes en LA CAPILLA DEL PADRE PIO, frente a las veladoras.

## PLATICAS PARA BAUTIZAR

Cada primer sábado del mes de 6:00 a 9:00 de la noche, sin niños, llamar antes para anotar su asistencia.

RECICLAGE. Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parroquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota.

### Las lecturas de la semana del 10 de abril de 2016

Domingo: Hch 5, 27-32. 40-41/Sal 30, 2. 4-6. 11-13/Ap 5, 11-14/  
Jn 21, 1-19 o 21, 1-14

Lunes: Hch 6, 8-15/Sal 119, 23-24. 26-27. 29-30/Jn 6, 22-29

Martes: Hch 7, 51--8, 1/Sal 31, 3-4. 6-8. 17. 21/Jn 6, 30-35

Miércoles: Hch 8, 1-8/Sal 66, 1-7/Jn 6, 35-40

Jueves: Hch 8, 26-40/Sal 66, 8-9. 16-17. 20/Jn 6, 44-51

Viernes: Hch 9, 1-20/Sal 117, 1-2/Jn 6, 52-59

Sábado: Hch 9, 31-42/Sal 116, 12-17/Jn 6, 60-69

Domingo siguiente: Hch 13, 14. 43-52/Sal 100, 1-3. 5/Ap 7, 9. 14-17/  
Jn 10, 27-30

**10 de abril de 2016**

**3er Domingo de Pascua**

En este Tercer Domingo de Pascua el Evangelio nos presenta un cuadro de tres cosas importantes para reflexionar. La primera es una pesca milagrosa, segunda encontramos a Jesús preparando una comida para los discípulos y por último somos partícipes del diálogo entre Jesús y Pedro. La iniciativa de Jesús resucitado está basada en su amor por nosotros. La misión, la Eucaristía y el ministerio pastoral es reconocida por sus discípulos y dan su respuesta de inmediato. Reconocen al Señor por la fe y lanzan las redes de la obediencia a la derecha a lo opuesto de hacerlo siempre. "Echen la red a la derecha de la barca y encontrarán peces" (Jn 21, 6).

La enseñanza es clara, no podemos permanecer de pie solamente viendo lo que pasa a nuestro alrededor. Hay que trabajar, insistir hay que intentar una y otra vez. Cuando Dios actúa en nuestra vida nos unimos a su petición y acción. Además nos prepara la comida y nos invita. "Vengan a almorzar" (Jn 21, 12). Fijémonos que es él quien toma la iniciativa. Es él que nos da su cuerpo y su sangre en la Eucaristía. Su presencia lo cambia todo. Él es la luz, el amor, la vida nueva. Si lo reconocemos ya no podemos quedarnos quietos. ¡Hay que anunciarlo! Ojalá que en este domingo aprovechemos para vivir esta experiencia, como se vive en el Cursillo de Cristiandad el ágape. Amor vivo presente ante nosotros como lo estuvo con sus discípulos después de resucitar, aquel día de Pascua. Pidamos en esta celebración de la Eucaristía poder gozar de los dones que nos trae Cristo resucitado. Porque ¡amar a Cristo es apacentar a sus ovejas! ¿Lo haremos?

**3er Domingo de Pascua**

¡Qué hermosa es la Pascua! Es un tiempo donde el Espíritu Santo trabaja en su Iglesia, haciendo de nosotros testigos obedientes hasta el final. Nuestra tarea es como la de Pedro. O sea, una continua conversión por medio del diálogo de pregunta y respuesta entre Jesús y cada uno de nosotros. El Libro de los Hechos de los Apóstoles también nos ayuda a reflexionar en cómo los apóstoles, a pesar de no ser bien recibidos en Jerusalén, continuaron predicando a Cristo resucitado con la seguridad de que "Primero hay que obedecer a Dios y luego a los hombres". ¿Crees que en la sociedad actual hacemos lo mismo? ¿Qué concepto tenemos de la obediencia? Al obedecer buscamos incansablemente la voluntad de Dios en nuestra vida. Esto nos traerá por consecuencia la fidelidad al Evangelio.

San Juan nos ubica en otra historia pascual de Jesús. Si recordamos bien, la semana pasada se apareció Jesús a sus apóstoles en un cuarto donde estaban estos encerrados. Hoy se aparece a la orilla del lago donde algunos de ellos salieron a pescar. La clave de esta historia es la encomienda de Jesús a la misión del cuidado pastoral de las personas que se nos han encomendado: "sean mis testigos, sean fieles y obedezcan al Padre tal como yo lo he hecho". Como ejemplo tenemos a Pedro quien de traicionar al Señor pasó a ser la roca firme donde Cristo depositó su confianza. Dejemos que el Espíritu de Dios nos guíe, sabiendo que ya no iremos a donde nosotros queramos sino a donde Dios nos tiene determinado ir.



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## Everyday Stewardship

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

## Kids: Sharing the Gospel

Love is dangerous. When you truly love someone, you are willing to sacrifice and go outside your normal boundaries of comfort. You never know what will be asked of you, but true love does not consider the cost of loving, it simply responds affirmatively to whatever the need.

When Jesus asks Peter several times about his love for him, he is clarifying that this is true love Peter has and not admiration or infatuation. This is because Peter's love of the Lord will end up costing him dearly. Love gives us life, but we also die somewhat when the source of that love suffers and passes away. But the good news of Jesus Christ is that those who love him will follow him in life, through death, and into a life that is eternal, even if before that heavenly banquet there will be many trials along the way.

The stewardship way of life demands of us a certain maturity of discipleship. Just as a child is not yet ready to be a parent, an immature disciple may not yet be ready to sacrifice regardless of the cost. So every day we are challenged and called to respond, sometimes even with little cost to ourselves. But each step, no matter how small, brings with it growth. We are growing not only in maturity, but in love as well.

When questioned, was Peter ready to accept the challenge regardless of the cost? His denial of Jesus after the arrest in the garden leads one to say no. But Peter grew wiser and more mature in faith, becoming the head of the church in Jerusalem and our first pope. If love can do this in Peter, what does love have in store for you? Be careful, because love that great is indeed dangerous.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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"Jesus said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?'" Three times, Simon Peter had denied Jesus. Now, three times, the risen Christ gives Peter the opportunity to announce his love. Although Peter was "distressed" by the Lord's repeated question, ultimately this must have been a healing moment in Peter's life. He finally had the opportunity to assure Jesus that he loved him, thereby making up for his earlier failure and weakness on the night of the Crucifixion.

Jesus' death on the cross sufficed to forgive us of our sins. But his resurrection assures us that there is new life on the other side of our sinfulness. Just as Jesus had the power to conquer death, so too through his grace we have the power to conquer our sins. We can live a resurrected life, we can have a new beginning, just as Peter did that day at the Sea of Tiberias when he pledged his faith anew.

This pledge of faith, it's interesting to note, also came with a kind of commission. Each time that Peter told the Lord he loved him, Jesus responded with a command: "Feed my lambs," "Tend my sheep," and "Feed my sheep." Of course, we know that Jesus had already established Peter as the "rock" on which he built his church, as the first pope. Now, Jesus was emphasizing the connection between loving him--the Good Shepherd--and loving his people, his flock, his church. Peter's love for Christ was meant to be manifested in his love and care for the church, as is the case with every pope. But it's also true for every Christian. We are called not just to relish the gift of forgiveness and the grace of new life in Christ, but to take the next step of loving and serving those around us.

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### Sharing the Gospel

After Jesus rose from the dead, he must have looked very different. Jesus helped his apostles catch a lot of fish, just as he had done before. Jesus invited his friends to eat with him, and he still broke his bread to share it in the same way he always had. The disciples still recognized Jesus by the things he did.

### Prayer

Dear God, help me to always recognize Jesus.

### Mission for the Week

Invite a friend over to eat dinner with your family, so you can share food just like Jesus did.

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## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14
- Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29
- Tuesday: Acts 7:51--8:1a/Ps 31:3-4, 6-8, 17, 21/Jn 6:30-35
- Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-7/Jn 6:35-40
- Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51
- Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1-2/Jn 6:52-59
- Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-17/Jn 6:60-69
- Next Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-3, 5/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30

### 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

