

Reflection

April 2008

After a very early Easter, the Gospel readings in April often continue to depict the Risen Christ encountering the disciples. The disciples are learning to recognize Him not by physical sight but by His actions and words. The Risen One dispels fear, offers peace, and empowers His followers to act in His name through the gift of His Spirit.



For example, Jesus appears to a weeping Mary Magdalene distressed because she finds the tomb empty and does not know where to find the body of Jesus. She recognizes Him only after He calls her by name. He visits frightened disciples huddled in the upper room and gifts them with peace. He joins the two discouraged disciples on their way to Emmaus as they try to figure out what happened; it is only in the breaking of the bread that their eyes are opened to who this traveling companion is. On the shores of Galilee the Risen Christ prepares a breakfast of fish for the discouraged and hungry disciples who have been out fishing--no other eye opening meal. Three times He asks Peter: do you love me, Simon Peter? Three times the one who denied knowing Jesus confesses his love. And is named leader. The Risen One entrusts His work to this motley crew--then and now.

What is consoling to me is how the Gospel texts depict the Risen Jesus relating to the disciples, individually and as a community, in their unique needs and ours as well. Today and everyday, the Risen One calls each of us by name, dispels our fears, forgives our weakness and our sins, and sends us forth in the power of His Spirit to love and heal the world. May our hearts and minds be open.

For your reflection:

Take a few minutes to quiet yourself. Invite Jesus to be with you in a place of fear, need or desire.

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