

We Are Witnesses And Instruments of Christ's Peace!

Today, the third Sunday of Easter, we are still being invited to reflect on the facts of Jesus' resurrection, his victory over sin, Satan and death, the foundation and crowning of our Christian faith. Jesus took time after his resurrection to clear every doubt about the resurrection and to strengthen his disciples so that they will become true witnesses of the facts of the resurrection. The after-effects of Christ's efforts are the contents of the book of the Acts of Apostles, which we read through the season of Easter in our first reading.

One thing striking we observe in most of Jesus' appearances to his disciples, was to pour his peace on them as we read today's gospel. The gospel today is a continuation of the Emmaus story. Christ's peace is God's presence. The disciples needed to feel the presence of God in them to live above the fear and disappointment of Jesus' death. The same peace the disciples invited all those they preached to have. We cannot have the peace of Christ if we do not turn our hearts to him and this is what Peter invites his listener in the first reading to do, to repent and believe in the resurrected Christ, the source of every hope and blessings. The resurrection of Christ is the central theme of the apostles' teaching and their living because they were true witnesses of the resurrection.

Christ through his presence among us in different ways continues to shower his peace on our hearts by always reconciling us to God when we recognize and call upon him. He is our advocate to the Father as the second reading points out clearly. It is the recognition of this peace of Christ's resurrection in our lives that helps us to carry through the challenges and difficulties of our life, and to share the same peace with others. Reconciliation and peace go hand in hand. We cannot have peace of heart if we fail to reconcile in us things going on in our life. Also, we cannot have peace of heart, if we fail to reconcile with one another. Equally, we cannot have peace of heart if we live against the love of God, rejecting his invitation for repentance in our lives.

We have to reflect and ask ourselves the behavior or attitudes in our lives that make it difficult for people around us, either in our families, places of work or worshipping community, not to share and feel the peace of Christ in us. We pray that as we continue to celebrate the joys of this Easter season, we discover the peace of Christ in our lives and be able to share the same peace with one another. Amen.

“Amid the many hardships we are enduring, let us never forget that we have been healed by the wounds of Christ (cf. 1 Pet 2:24). In the light of the Risen Lord, our sufferings are now transfigured. Where there was death, now there is life. Where there was mourning, now there is consolation. In embracing the cross, Jesus bestowed meaning on our sufferings and now we pray that the benefits of that healing will spread throughout the world” (Pope Francis' 2021 Easter Message)