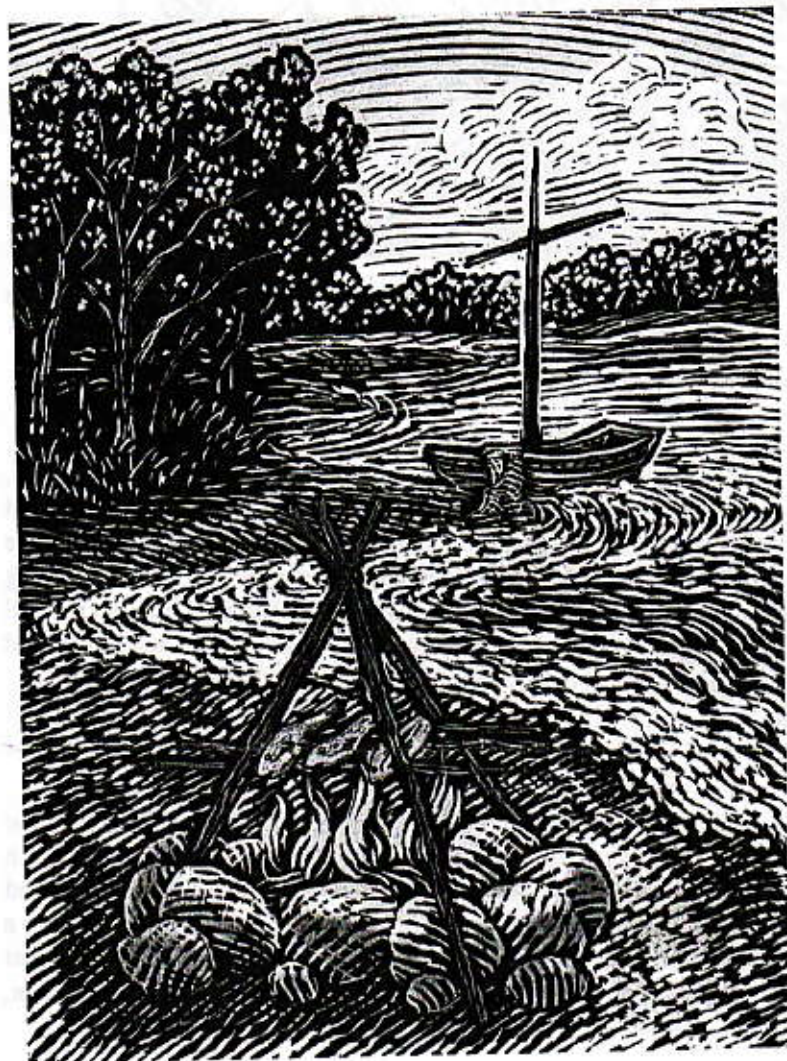


Third Sunday of Easter



Disciples' Prayer

Lord God,
your Son appeared to his disciples
and ate with them at the seashore.
He asked Simon Peter, "Do you love me?"

Give us the grace to say "yes"
when he asks us to love you.
Give us the grace of an eager step
when he asks us to care for
brothers and sisters in need.

Help us to be undisturbed
by hard work or hard times,
but to rejoice in your Son's presence
even when we don't always recognize it.
Help us to stretch out our hands
so that you can bind us with your love
and carry us home to you.
We ask this through the same Christ,
our Lord. Amen.

April 18, 2010

"Do you love me more than these?"

In today's Gospel (John 21:1-19) when Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me more than these?" some think that he is asking whether Peter loves him more than "these" other disciples. A different way of looking at this question is to think of it as Jesus asking if Peter loves Jesus more than these things that are around him—friends, fishing, food, boat—anything that might distract him from following Jesus. It is helpful to imagine Jesus asking us the same question: "Do you love me more than these?" The first time he asks it might refer to magazines or TV or something that would be easy to give up. The second time, Jesus might be asking for a little more

sacrifice—something that we really like (some have said: chocolate or luxurious vacations). The third time Jesus asks us reaches deep into the core of our being for those things to which we cling. This might be power or control, food or drink, or any other emotion or thing that we think will satisfy our deepest longing. Our first temptation might be to say, "I'll get back to you." But Jesus really desires our whole attention. He longs to be our sole (and soul) satisfaction. Reread this Gospel passage today and ask God for the grace to say, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."

This Week at Home



Monday, April 19

Bread of Life

Today's passage from chapter six of the Gospel according to John introduces Jesus' discourse on the bread of life, which we will hear all during this week. On Friday Jesus will say: "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them." Taken literally, this was difficult for his Jewish listeners, who had a law against drinking blood. Catholics understand this to mean that Jesus gives himself in bread and wine in Holy Communion. The mystery of bread and wine becoming body and blood in the great prayer of the Church called Eucharist (thanksgiving) is in the words of the Second Vatican Council, the source and summit of our lives (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 10).

Tuesday, April 20

Saint Stephen and Saul

In the early days of the Christian community, many people were angry at the apostles' preaching. In today's account (Acts 7:51-8:1a), we hear of the stoning of Stephen, the first recorded martyr of the Church. His words were powerful, and with his last breath, he asked God for mercy for his killers. At the end of the reading, we meet a character named Saul who approved of the death. In the passage from Acts read on Friday, he will have a powerful vision of Jesus and a miraculous transformation. We know him as Paul.

Wednesday, April 21

Saint Anselm

Saint Anselm was a philosopher and theologian, born in Italy around 1033. He studied at and directed monasteries as a prior and abbot in France, and eventually he served as Archbishop of Canterbury in England, ending his days there in 1109. Anselm was one of the first to use reason to study and argue about faith—an approach called scholasticism that grew to

prominence in medieval times. This desire to uphold faith with reason influenced many, including Thomas Aquinas.

Thursday, April 22

Joyful Noises

Psalm 66 urges every person to make a joyful noise to God, for God "has kept us among the living" and has "not removed his steadfast love." During this alleluia season, make some joyful noises. Can you play an instrument? Could you sing while you work? Even without musical skills, we can all sing along with the assembly at church or with recorded music at home, expressing our gratitude for God's love.

Friday, April 23

Saint George

Although there are many legends about Saint George, the patron saint of England, the only thing known for certain about him is that he was a martyr of the third century, killed in Palestine. In many of the stories about George, he is a soldier. Those best known to us, such as the story of Saint George saving a princess and her village from a dragon, come from medieval times.

Saturday, April 24

Saint Fidelis

Saint Fidelis lived from 1577 to 1622, working in the areas of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. At first he was a lawyer who upheld the rights of the poor, but he soon joined the Capuchin Franciscans, a religious order whose members follow Saint Francis and devote their lives to the poor. Fidelis became an enthusiastic preacher to the followers of Calvin and Zwingli as he tried to win them back to Catholicism. He understood the danger of his work and calmly faced his martyrdom at the hands of an angry crowd.



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 Keeping the Seasons
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