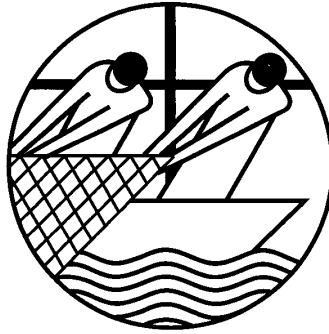


Jesus Meets Us on the Shore



Whenever we experience a great shock or a completely unexpected event, it is not always wise to react *in the moment*. It is often better and even healthier to stick to our daily routines and gain some perspective. This is what happened to Peter in Galilee... for nothing was clear in the disciples' minds. They were still terribly distressed by recent events and their faith in the Risen Lord needed some strong reassurance. Peter, their leader, made an abrupt decision: *I am going fishing*. And the others responded: *We are going with you*.

The disciples' names are not recorded – so we may include our own. Are we not part of this great vessel that is the Church? The apostles continued to labor unsuccessfully throughout the night until Jesus himself called out to them to persevere. They did as he suggested and finally realized it was their Lord when their empty nets were bursting with fish. The apostles had already experienced such abundance at the wedding feast at Cana and at the multiplication of the loaves. When Jesus fulfills our requests, it's always beyond our expectations.

The disciple whom Jesus loved immediately recognized him: *It is the Lord*. Peter impulsively jumped into the water and joined him on the shore. Throughout this dialogue, Jesus did not once reproach him. The past was forgotten. Peter would be the cornerstone of the Church, the shepherd of his flock.

Mystery, doubt and recognition, all these factors played a part in this scene recorded by St. John. Who was this person who called to them from the shore? We can understand the apostles' hesitation. Who is this Person who calls us today? Is he a *Presence* in our daily lives? Our faith is often revealed to be fragile and wavering much like Peter's when he denied Christ. Yet we know that in God's eyes, human beings are worth more than the sum of all their actions. The disciple who denied him was the first to plunge into the sea to meet the Risen Lord. Though Jesus accompanies us along the shores of our hectic lives, would we be able to recognize him?

*Yes, Lord we thank you ...
for the gift of your life,
help our lack of faith.*

Yvon Cousineau, c.s.v.

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

God Keeps His Promise : Possibilities Abound...