

## **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.**

**(Jesus Reinstates Peter)**

Dearly beloved:

**N**ext Sunday, May 7th is the Third Sunday after Easter. The Holy Gospel reading for this Sunday is the continuation of last Sunday's Gospel. Last Sunday, our Achen read about Jesus appearing for the third time to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias after He was raised from the dead (St. John 21: 1-14). This Sunday's reading is continued from Versus 15-19.

**W**hen they had finished breakfast, Jesus questioned Simon Peter's love, faithfulness and devotion three times in front of the other apostles. As we all know, it must have caused Peter pain and sorrow since he had publicly denied Jesus three times. Peter must have grieved for asking again and again. Now Peter, full of remorse and humility, unequivocally said that he loved his Master and was willing to serve Him whatever it might cost. When Jesus asks him do you love Me more than these, Jesus may have pointed to the other disciples and to Peter's previous boast: Though they all fall away because of You, I will never fall away" (St. Matthew 26:33). Peter now makes no comparison or boast but humbly responds: "Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you. Here Peter was reinstated.

**P**eter was Jesus' trusted disciple and spokesman. Andrew, his older brother introduced Peter to Jesus who called Peter along with John and James while fishing. Jesus named him 'Peter' meaning rock, changing from Simon. If we confess our sin, we will be forgiven. Peter glorified at death: crucified head downwards per his wishes, kissing the feet of crucified Jesus. If we love Him, we have to keep His word. God loves everyone; He does not discriminate.

**J**ohn the evangelist tells us that "God is Love" (1 John 4: 16). His love is unconditional, without limit, and everlasting and that is the essence of Christianity. "Lord inflame our heart with Your love and remove everything that is unloving, unkind, ungrateful, unholy and not in accord with Your will".

### **Bible readings for Sunday, May 7th, 2006.**

**(Third Sunday after Easter)**

#### **Before Holy Qurbana:**

**Exodus** - **40: 1-16**  
**Joshua** - **2: 1-6**  
**Isaiah** - **49: 13-21**

#### **Holy Qurbana**

General Epistles: **Acts** - **4: 8-21**  
Epistles of St. Paul: **Hebrews** - **3: 1-13**  
Holy Gospel: **St. John** - **21: 15-19**

**Next Sunday, May 14th is Fourth Sunday After Easter.**

With prayers,  
Thomas Alex