3rd.Sunday of Easter (Year C). Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Rev.5:11-14; John 21:1-19.

**Do You Love the Risen Lord Jesus above All Else? “Lord, you know everything. You know I love you.”**

**Why didn't the apostles immediately recognize the Risen Lord Jesus when he greeted them at the Sea of Tiberias?** John gives us a clue. He states that Peter had decided to return to his home district of Galilee, very likely so he could resume his fishing career. Peter was discouraged and didn't know what to do after the tragedy of Jesus' death! He went back to his previous job as a fisherman out of uncertainty for his future. Six of the other apostles followed him back to Galilee.

Q= **Why did Jesus choose to reveal himself to the apostles at the Sea of Galilee - and right after they had spent a whole night of futile fishing?** The Risen Lord was waiting on the shore for Peter and the other apostles. When their boat drew near the shore, Jesus questioned them and then gave a command to lower their nets into the sea. When their nets began to burst at the great haul of fish, John, the beloved disciple, recognized that it was the Lord who was speaking to them. Peter then immediately leaped from the boat and ran to the Lord.

Why did Jesus question Peter's love and loyalty three times in front of the other disciples? It must have caused Peter pain and sorrow since he had publicly denied Jesus three times previously. Now Peter, full of remorse and humility, unequivocally stated that he loved his Lord and Master and was willing to serve him whatever it might cost.

**Life Message:** The Lord Jesus calls each one of us, even in our personal struggles, weakness, and sin, to draw near to him as our merciful Healer and Savior. He invites us to choose him as our Lord and to love him above all else. What can hold us back from giving him our undivided love and unqualified loyalty (Rom. 8:38-39)? Nothing but our own sinful pride and stubborn will, and blind fear can hold us back from receiving his gracious forgiveness, loving-kindness, and faithful love.

**Conclusion:** The Lord Jesus is always ready to renew us in faith and to give each of us fresh hope in his promises for us. Remember what Jesus told his disciples in **John 15:5: “I am the vine you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from you can do nothing.”** Here, Jesus describes the essence of a fruitful Christian life. By faith, we must stay connected to Christ every second of every day to live the most God-honoring and abundant life of peace and fruitfulness in Christ. We can never outmatch God in generosity and goodness. He loved us first and our love for him is a response to his exceeding grace (unmerited favor) and mercy.

Now, do you run to the Lord Jesus when you meet setbacks and disappointments, and when your faith is being put to the test? May the Lord continue to renew our minds and rekindle our hearts with his transforming love, for us to respond to Jesus: **“Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you”.** Amen!