

**Holy Spirit Working through Us**    Friday within the Octave of Easter    April 21, 2017  
8:15 AM    Acts 4:1-12;    Jn 21:1-14    (The risen Lord is with us always.)

The stories of Jesus appearing to his disciples are many; they probably took place over several months. In a way it's odd that the **disciples never seem to recognize him**. So what are we to make of this? I think what we are to make of it is that **Jesus' appearances were so totally ordinary**. They were not apparitions, in other words, but ordinary appearances. He was just like someone else. Mary Magdalene mistook him for a gardener; apparently she wasn't expecting to see him and **apparently his overall looks were different from before**, but in what way, we don't know. The disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize him. Here the disciples really don't recognize him at first. The one who loved him very deeply recognized him first, but that was only after this huge catch of fish. **So what are we to make of this?**

I believe what we are supposed to make of this is that **after the resurrection the disciples had to return to life as they knew it before**. And it is precisely in this life that they had before that **Jesus reinserts himself, but in a different way**, a way at first they don't recognize. I think the meaning of that for us in the Church today is that **God has many ways of touching us, but often we don't recognize it**.

**Gradually the sense of the Holy Spirit working within them became the primary focus of their sense of God, God working within their own actions**, as in the case of the Acts of the Apostles. They became bold. They became missionaries because of the power of the Spirit inside of them, **working through their words and actions**. But that was as it were a later phase. **The first phase was recognizing once again that, yes, the risen Lord is in our lives**, our daily lives, whatever we are doing whether it's fishing or whatever.

Likewise the Christian Church has to go through these phases of recognizing that no matter what we are doing or what our task is or what our vocation is, **the risen Lord is with us always, and will manifest in various ways**. We have to be on the lookout. We have to anticipate. **We have to expect that somehow God will be speaking or showing us something in our daily tasks**. But then **the next phase is we have to recognize that through our own actions and through our own faith, the Holy Spirit will work and energize our activities with divine fruit**. If this be not the result of the resurrection, than what was it all about?