

I give you this reflection on the “spiritual life” using the readings from the 3rd Sunday of Easter. (Jn. 21:1-19; Rev. 5:11-14; Acts 5:27...41).

-In **John's Gospel**: The Church Fathers and Doctors have commented on the mystical meaning of the boat in the sea and the catch of fish / The sea represents the world, which can sometimes be rough / The boat is the Church whose net DOES NOT TEAR (The Church will always be ONE in UNITY) because we have a continuity of teaching (In both written - Bible - and oral traditions) / Peter in the boat stands for the supreme authority given to the Church, to teach, govern, and sanctify / The number of fish “153” signifies “the elect” (St. Augustine posited that the Science at the time declared 153 to be the total number of species of fish known to exist) / Thus, Salvation is offered to ALL the elect.

-**Revelation**: We are all called / John sees a *Countless number of elders in Heaven* / We see Jesus is given authority over all creation.

-With the image of the boat (The Church) / God wants to nourish and sustain us on this journey from the world to Heaven / It is important to Stay in the boat.

-And Peter is key / “Where Peter is: There is the Church” (St. Ambrose).

-We also see Divine Mercy / After Peter's 3 Denials / Jesus gives Peter 3 opportunities to say “I love you” / Jesus leads Peter from friendship to a deeper “Agape” Love found in the interior of the heart / We see Peter's heart.

Peter reminds me of this:

-He wasn't perfect but His heart was always in.

-Peter is flawed but in the end he is chosen by Jesus and set aside for a purpose.

-Our Faith is a life long journey.

-Let us pray for Patience, Fortitude, and Perseverance.

-Let go of Pride (we are not perfect, and yet God uses us even with our imperfections) / He certainly used Peter.

-We don't wait to become perfect before approaching God / We approach Him to receive daily nudges towards perfection.

-Today in **ACTS** we read: “*We should submit to God, not man.*”

-Meaning we remain confident that Jesus loves us even when we sometimes want to give up / Even when we sometimes don't love ourselves / God will never give up on us.

-God wants to give us truth and fulfillment / For the things of Heaven are eternal: thus; much more important than the things of the world, which are passing away.

-Earlier this week in **ACTS** we read: “*Go and take your place*” / God has a special place for you / That is for you alone to fulfill / He created you alone for that person, task, or relationship on a given day.

-Your place and story are important to God / And it is specifically your story to share / Out of Love is why He created you.

-So what are we waiting for? / Let us give as much as we are able to give in our brokenness today to Jesus and our families / And then may we take our place and let God show us the way to a full life and fulfillment in Him.

**Vivat Jesus,
Father Vic Gournas**