

Rectoría San Juan de Dios
II Sunday of Easter, Cycle A
Acts 2, 42-47; Ps 118; 1 Pt 1, 3-9; Jn 20, 19-31
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Let Us Live By Communion

At nightfall on the day of the Resurrection, as we heard in the Gospel of John, Jesus came and stood in the midst of His disciples. They were afraid. They had locked the doors of the house where they had gathered because they felt abandoned. They were in the night of their own fears and their own oppression; they were like clandestine disciples.

When Jesus appears in the midst of them, He makes them a community. He gives them the signs of His love and His victory—His hands and His side. The holes in His hands and side give them peace and joy. Those holes in His body show them how much violence and suffering He has undergone. They represent the limit of human evil and the border of divine love. They are wounds that have life because of the love with which He received them. They are pure and spotless wounds that generate peace and consolation. And if the signs remain with Jesus, it is because His love remains.

If we look carefully, we see that before Jesus came, those disciples were centered on their own fears; they were incapable of experiencing communion between themselves and Jesus. Now they experience the love of God and in it, communion in its purest form.

Thomas, separated from the community, had not understood the death and resurrection of Jesus. He had not lived the experience of Jesus raised from the dead nor had he received the Holy Spirit and the mission from Jesus as had the other disciples. In the most decisive moments of our life, the experience of communion counts for much; it dispels all fear, doubt, and suffering.

We want to experience communion with the resurrected Jesus; we want to confirm the love.

Let us try three approaches:

1-Let us live the joy of our calling.

Joy grows spontaneously at the very moment in which we feel that the Lord is at the center of our lives. It is He who calls us to live as the *ekklesia*¹. He is the model who nourishes the communal life with the continued presence of His signs, with blood and water.

The primitive Christian community lived in exceptional harmony: *“They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.”* They lived united and held everything in common.

How long has it been since we have felt we were called? How long has it been since we have lived the experience of giving?

¹ *Ekklesia* as the community of the elect, those who are called.

2-Let us come out of hiding.

At His resurrection, Jesus granted rebirth even to those of us who didn't know Him in that time. We can have a precious faith, as Peter said in the second reading, because without having seen Christ, we love Him. Our joy becomes glorious and indescribable because it is born from knowing ourselves loved and adhered to Jesus. In addition, in today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a beatitude: *Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe*"(Jn 20, 29); this is the Beatitude of faith.²

In order to come out of hiding, let us enter into the home where Jesus showed the signs of His mercy. Let us try to touch the holes in His hands and His side and discover that a love like that cannot be silenced.

3-Let us communicate the experience of love.

Love makes communion. Seeing the signs of Jesus, we all feel involved. The wound in His side represents a boundless universe in our experience of love because it is probable that we have loved in a similar way. Maintaining that fidelity of love gives clarity and continuity to our identity. We are the privileged ones who, having experienced the love of our friend and Lord, enjoy sharing an experience like this with others.

² The blessedness of faith is lived always from the experience of communion and joy. The blessedness that precedes all the rest is the blessedness of Mary. After she had conceived Jesus in her womb, St Elizabeth declares to her: *"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."* (Luke 1, 45)

The breath of the Spirit that Jesus breathed over us has made us new; He creates the new human condition in us, one of the Spirit, of love, and of liberty.

Can anyone pull us away from this experience of communion with Jesus and others?