

Day 21 – Fr Jerome’s Lockdown Reflections

Thursday in Easter Week

16 April 2020

Readings: Acts 3:11-26, Psalm 8, Luke 24:36-48

In these days after Easter, the Gospel texts narrate the apparitions of Jesus. At the beginning, in the first years after the death and the Resurrection of Jesus, the Christians were concerned with defending the Resurrection through the apparitions. They themselves, the living community, were a great apparition of the Risen Jesus. But in the measure in which the criticism of the enemies against the faith in the Resurrection increased, and that internally, and as there arose criticism and doubts concerning diverse functions in the community (1 Co 1:12), they began to recall the apparitions of Jesus. There are two types of apparitions:

- (a) Those which stress the doubts and the resistance of the disciples in believing in the Resurrection, and
- (b) Those who call attention to the orders of Jesus to the disciples – men and women – conferring some mission to them.

The first ones respond to criticisms from the outside. These show that Christians are not naïve and credulous persons who accept everything and anything. Au contraire! They themselves had many doubts in believing in the Resurrection.

The others respond to the criticism from within and establish the community functions and tasks, not on human qualities which are always debatable, but on the authority and orders received from the Risen Jesus.

The apparitions of Jesus in today’s Gospel put together two different aspects: the doubts of the disciples and the mission to announce and to forgive received from Jesus.

Sometimes unbelief and doubt beset the heart and weaken the certainty that faith gives us concerning the presence of God in our life. Have you ever experienced this? How have you overcome it?

- Our mission is that of being witnesses to the love of God revealed in Jesus. Am I a witness to this love?
- Can I identify those things in my life which cast doubt on my faith? How do I defend against these attacks?

**Lord Jesus Christ
you transformed the tomb of death
into the womb of new life:
make us joyful witnesses of this good news
that all creation may be redeemed,
restored and reconciled;
for you live and reign
in the unity of the Blessed Trinity,
one God, in glory everlasting.
Amen**