

Entrance antiphon: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 5: 27-32, 40-41

Psalm 29: Response: I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

Second Reading: Apocalypse 5:11-14

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 21: 1-19

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

“God sends us friends to be our firm support in the whirlpool of struggle. In the company of friends we will find strength to attain our sublime ideal. St. Maximilian Kolbe



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Third Sunday of Easter Cycle C, 2022 Weekly Reflection: Friend- ships

Father Ed. Dougherty in his article “Friendships help us to discover Christ”, he highlights C. S. Lewis’ observation in his book *The Four Loves*, that for those who seek out Christian friendships, there are no coincidences in respect of who we encounter in life, and with whom we find common ground and ultimately strike up lasting relationships. He writes “A secret master of ceremonies has been at work. Christ, who said to the disciples, “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.” God has reasons for placing us in each other’s lives. We strike up friendships for various reasons. Sometimes it is because we have a lot in common but sometimes, we come from different backgrounds and have little in common. Ever wonder why you get on so well with a friend when on the face of it you have little in common?

The Christopher News Note *Making a Friend of Jesus* points to the lives of the saints as a guide for cultivating a friendship with Jesus. St. Catherine of Siena grew so close to Christ that she conversed with Him throughout her day. St. Alphonsus Liguori encouraged a conversational approach to prayer, writing “Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving friends. Speak to Him often of your business, your plans, your troubles, your fears – everything that concerns you. Converse with Him confidently and frankly; for God is not wont to speak to a soul that does not speak to him.”

God brings us together because he wants us to help each other get to heaven. Discovering, as C S Lewis says “the beauties of others” enables us to recognise the presence of God in each human soul. That recognition can guide our interactions with all people we meet and make us aware that we are greeting Christ each time we encounter another person.

-Bernard Kellet