Easter 3 A

# MDP of God

In our 1st reading today from the Acts of the Apostles – St. Peter, our first pope, is on fire for the Lord

He gets up and he says, “You who are Jews, hear these words. Men of Israel, LISTEN TO ME”

And he goes on to tell them all about Jesus and what Jesus has done.

We only have a small part of his speech today, but next week we’ll hear more of what he said.

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But I think it’s important to see **the enthusiasm** of Peter and the other apostles

It’s important to see how they were willing to face persecution – *they were whipped* – they were arrested – and eventually, most of them were martyred for preaching about Jesus

But Peter and the other apostles *wanted everyone* to come to salvation in Christ-------

And they couldn’t come to salvation, unless they heard the good news proclaimed to them.

*So they were on fire for the Lord*

And I want everyone of you to ask yourself – “Am I on fire for the Lord?”

Do I love Jesus to the point, that not only do I want to serve Him, but I want to tell others about Him?

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## Let me change gears here

Have any of you ever seen a movie that you thought was great – and you couldn’t wait to tell people how good it was?

Has any of you ever been to a new restaurant, and you were excited to tell people about how much you enjoyed it?

Have any of you ever been excited about a new car, where you wanted to show it to all your family and friends?

Have any of you ever met a girl or guy, who you thought might be **thee one**, *and you couldn’t wait* until you told your friends and family all about that person?------------------------------

The fact is my friends, when we’re excited about something or someone – the most natural thing in the world is to want to tell others about that thing or person – isn’t it?

Peter was excited about Jesus

Paul was excited about Jesus

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – were excited about Jesus

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The Eucharistic Prayer I’m going to use at Mass today, mentions the names of many saints, who devoted their lives to serving Jesus – they were excited about Him

**Are you excited about Jesus?** My friends –that’s different than just believing in Jesus—are you excited about Him—is your relationship with Him what gives joy to your life—Hope--brings you peace? [it should]

Do you want others to have the hope and joy and peace that only Jesus can give?

My dear friends, our faith tells us that we can only be saved by faith in Jesus Christ – *that without Him*, **we can’t be saved** [doeesnt matter how good—how nice—how kind]

There are people all around us, who don’t know Jesus – we can introduce them to Him

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There are people in our families – in our places of work – in our schools – who don’t have saving faith.

Our words and example can lead them to faith

And folks—enthusiasm is catchy—excitement is catchy

As Catholics *– we have so much to be excited about*

We not only have His Word – we have the correct interpretation of His Word –[infallible guidance of the Holy Spirit]

We have the vicar of Christ – the successor of Peter- the Pope who is truly a Holy Father to the Church throughout the world

As Catholics, we have Jesus Christ truly present, body, blood, soul and divinity in the Blessed Sacrament – there are a lot of other Christians who don’t have those gifts====

And yet, a lot of times we Catholics are afraid to share our faith –to tell the good news - to point others to Jesus. [Bored with it……….]

I don’t know why that is, but it’s a fact-= there are a lot of others who don’t have near what we have – *who are very willing to share their faith with others*

My friends in our first reading we heard how the first pope spoke with conviction and joy about Jesus

St *Peter and so many of our popes over the centuries* have been wonderful examples of people who were willing to give everything for God

## And my friends, those are examples we should follow

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[I want to change gears here again]You know it’s no secret that many people today have rejected the Word of God and the kind of life God calls us to live by

Many can’t be bothered with church

Many ignore the commands of God in how they live their lives—*falsely thinking that their way will be better than God’s way*

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But it’s a fascinating thing that many people who have rejected the gospel *still have a yearning to find religious truth*, **but their turning to false gods to satisfy that yearning**

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St. Peter in our 2nd reading today addresses that

He talks about how the people in the 1st century were led from **their futile way of life** by the precious blood of Christ

And yet we live in a time when many have rejected the precious blood of Christ offered them in the Eucharist – and have gone back to pagan practices

What pagan practices? – The Occult- Astrology – Fortune Telling- Tarrot cards – Ouija boards- psychics

Sometimes when I’m on vacation I’ll be up late watching TV – and they’ll be all kinds of adds for physics

Call this 900 number and for only $3.95 a minute they’ll solve all your life problems

I’ve looked in the back of magazines- especially women’s magazines – and there’s all kinds of advertisements for psychics

Obviously a lot of people are engaging in these practices

But the bible clearly condemns these practices- in fact it speaks of these occult practices as being the same as worshipping demons

The bible tells us that one of the reasons that God gave His people the Promised Land, was because the people living in those lands were going to fortune -tellers and were involved in other occult practices

*And people in the occult aren’t embarrassed about inviting others into these practices*—*why is it that we Catholics so often are unwilling to share the truth with others*- **the truth that can save them**

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As our responsorial psalm today said- “Lord you will show us the path of life”

And He has

In our gospel today the disciples recognized Jesus “in the breaking of the bread”

That was the biblical way of saying that they recognized Him in the Holy Eucharist

# We have the fullness of God in front of us

We have the fullness of truth in our Catholic faith that comes to us from the Apostles

And there are so many people who are so lost – people who are turning to the occult and New Age practices- because they’re looking for meaning in their lives- *there are others trapped in sin----****and we have what God has to give-----***

We have the Gospel

We have the Holy Eucharist where our God shares His very life with us

We have the fullness of truth that comes to us in the gospel and through the teaching of the Church

And yet so often we keep it to ourselves

Let’s be like Peter and the other Apostles – Let’s be like so many of the saints – *Let’s be on fire for the Lord Jesus-* let’s be willing to share these saving truths with all we meet