

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER      MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2022**

*As we all know, Love is much more about deeds than it is about words. In so many words, Jesus is saying the same thing to Peter in today's Gospel, "Peter, if you love me. show me!" And then He goes on to explain to Peter how he can express that love. Simply feed my sheep, feed my lambs. That is, bring my light, my life, my love to all those you meet.*

*To illustrate how contemporary this Gospel is, the story of Fr. Brennan Manning, a popular retreat master tells the story that all through school he was very close to a classmate and when they graduated together from High School, they both immediately joined the Army and were sent to Korea. One day as they were together in a fox hole the enemy threw in a live grenade. Brennan's buddy immediately jumped on it covering it with his body. He died in the process, but it saved the life of Fr. Brennan.*

*It is when you and I wake up to the reality that God loves us, when we almost hear the Father say, "What more could my Son have done besides giving His Life for you" to show His Love, that we are awoken.*

*Then, like Peter and the other disciples we respond to God's love for us by showing love to all others, even our enemies. That's feeding the sheep.*

*The question we ask ourselves, is **how frequently** should we respond to God's love?*

*There is a story about the man and woman who were married for ten years, and the romance of their marriage had gone south. Every day his routine was the same. He came home from work, grabbed a beer out of the fridge, went to the family room and read the paper until supper. After supper he watched some TV and then went to bed. One evening he happened to run across an article in the Readers Digest on how to revive the romance in one's marriage. It simply said to do ten little kindness for your spouse each day for thirty days and the romance would come alive. It was built on the principle that loving feelings always follow loving actions. So, the next day after work he cleaned up and put on fresh clothes at work, picked up a dozen red roses, came home and rang the front doorbell. When his wife answered the door he said, "Honey, I love you." She stood there, speechless, holding the crying baby in her arms, and with tears coming down her cheeks she replied, "Your son fell out of the tree in the back yard this morning and broke his arm. The washing machine flooded the carpet in the basement, and just 30 minutes ago your mother called and said she is coming to spend a month with us. And then on top of all that, **you come home drunk!**"*

*The moral of the story – you have to feed the sheep every day, not just when you feel like it. Our motivation of course is love of God. As St. Paul says, "Whether you eat or drink or whatever else you do, do it for the greater honor and glory of God."*