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## St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church

PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136

**April 18, 2021**

*We are a loving, supportive, and vibrant Catholic community committed to being a welcoming parish family by spreading the Love of Jesus Christ throughout our community and into the world.*



### Third Sunday of Easter

We need to relive the "Upper Room Experience" in the Holy Mass. The same Jesus who, in the Upper Room, prepared his disciples for their preaching and witnessing mission, is present with us in the Eucharistic celebration. He invites us to share in the "Liturgy of the Word" and in "The Liturgy of Eucharist." In the first part of the Mass, Jesus speaks to us through the "Word of God." In the second part, He becomes our spiritual food and drink. Thus, today's Gospel scene is repeated every Sunday on our parish altars. Like the early disciples, we come together to repent of our sins, express our thanks for the blessings we have received, listen to God's words and offer ourselves to God on the altar - along with our gifts of bread and wine. We also share in the spiritual food Jesus supplies, and we are sent to share his message with the entire world.

Jesus needs us as witnesses to continue his mission. Witnessing to Jesus is testifying, by the way we live, that the power of the Risen Jesus has touched us and transformed us in the most remarkable way imaginable. Witnessing to Jesus is letting Jesus speak through us to other people. Jesus needs Spirit-filled followers to be his eyes, ears, hands and feet so that we may bear witness to his love, mercy and forgiveness by exercising these gifts in our compassionate loving service of all our brothers and sisters. The Church desperately needs dedicated witnesses: priests, deacons, Brothers, Sisters, parents, teachers, doctors, and nurses - all of us.

Our daily lives need to become the means of experiencing and sharing the risen Lord with others. Just as the disciples experienced their risen Lord in their community, let us learn to recognize the presence of Jesus in our own homes, social service centers, nursing facilities, workplaces, hospitals, and schools. These are also the places where we have the opportunity to convey our peace and joy to others.

We need to become agents with Jesus in the establishing of the Kingdom in our world. Jesus wants us to be a community which shares and in which everything is shared - a community which knows how to recognize Jesus in the poor, in the marginalized, and in the sick - a community to bring healing into people's lives - and a community of peacemakers and not makers of division or conflict.

Let us all entrust ourselves to the Loving Mercy of God, and Our Lord Jesus Christ. Putting our trust in Him, knowing that He has loved us so dearly and so patiently. Let us be filled with the desire to repent from our own sins, the sins which have been purchased and forgiven through the shedding of the Body and Blood of Our Lord on the Cross, as a perfect sign of His eternal love for us.

So Let us humble ourselves before Him, allowing Him to lead us in our way, so that we may truly serve Him faithfully as forgiven children, that we may contribute in whatever way we can, to move forward with the many works of the Church of God in our world today.

May God be with us all, and forgive us all our sins, and embrace us all who desire to return to Him and be reconciled with Him. Amen. In Christ, Father Akuti