



## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

“WORTHY IS THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN TO RECEIVE POWER AND RICHES, WISDOM AND STRENGTH, HONOR AND GLORY AND BLESSING.” —Revelation 5:12

April 14, 2013

~ Parish Life and Activities... ~

### THE GOOD SHEPHERD

In this Sunday’s first reading and Gospel we see Peter and the other disciples in action after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On trial, they refused to stop teaching in Jesus’ name, and they rejoiced at the opportunity to suffer for their beliefs. On the lake and its shore, face to face with the Risen Lord, they obeyed his directions and recognized him as he once again ate a meal with them. There are so many human and almost homey touches in these readings! The high priest in the first scene sounds as if he is scolding naughty students. There is an order to stop speaking in Jesus’ name, but it is evident everyone knows they will disobey again. And on the lake shore, we can imagine Peter’s excitement as he strides out of the water and is greeted by Jesus, who grins and says, “Come, have breakfast.”

The second reading, on the other hand, is anything but homey. In this passage from Revelation, John describes a scene in which the same Lord who fed his friends breakfast here receives honor and glory from everything in the universe.

### OUR NEIGHBORING PARISHES...

The annual St. Joseph Parish Fair will be held April 19-21. You will enjoy games, delicious food, an auction, carnival rides, live music provided by The Elm Street Band, and a brew house.

St. Anthony’s graduating class of 1973 is planning their 40th reunion to be held this September 7. For information please contact SA73@longbeachsaints.org.

Our Lady of Refuge School (TK thru 8th) is accepting applications for the 2013/14 school year. They offer a full or half-day option for their Transitional Kindergarten for 4 year olds. For more information call 562.597.0819.

### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

WASHINGTON (April 8)—A statement by **Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty**, expressed “deep gratitude” and “solidarity and appreciation” for litigants challenging the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate, which forces employers to pay for contraceptive services even over their religious and moral objections. **In voicing his support for bishops and other Catholic entities, he noted that “Their goal is nothing less than securing the freedom of the Church to continue to obey the Lord’s command—and, in turn, to serve the common good—by providing charitable ministries in health care, education, and service to the poor, all without compromising Catholic beliefs.”** He also expressed “deep gratitude to the scores of people and organizations—from various denominations and walks of life—who have challenged the HHS mandate in federal courts around our country over the last year. Archbishop Lori added that **“in our Catholic tradition, the right to religious freedom proceeds from the inherent dignity of each and every human person. Accordingly, our concern for religious freedom extends well beyond our own ministries of service.”** He singled out for special praise “those in the business sector who have courageously challenged the HHS mandate in court.” “Their actions have been a source of encouragement, particularly because of their high rate of success in obtaining early injunctions to block the mandate,” Archbishop Lori said. He acknowledged the recent move by the government to clarify the definition of a “religious employer”—which would receive a full exemption from the mandate. He said that “this small, incremental step is welcomed,” but added that “most of the serious problems with the definition and mandate remain, and so we will continue our vigorous efforts to correct those remaining flaws.” Archbishop Lori said that “Catholics in America have long been advocates for religious liberty, and we continue to affirm this basic right today.

**“We have consistently supported the rights of individuals not to act against their religious beliefs or moral convictions, especially when individuals seek to protect the dignity of human life,” he said. “As Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, I would like to urge all people of good will to pray that our leaders, and all people of this great country, will promote and protect religious liberty and its fundamental place in society.”**