

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

May 1, 2022

The Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27–32, 40b–41 † Revelation 5:11–14 † John 21:1–19



Reflection by: Elise Redmerski, OP

Coming up empty.

I am sure that many of you, like me, have had the experience of trying to do something with little or no luck and much frustration. Perhaps it could be writing an article, teaching a class, researching a project, or trying to do this reflection. Too often I rely on my experience and my way of doing things. That approach can sometimes lead me to wind up empty-handed just like the fishermen in today's gospel. These experienced fishermen fished all night, but their nets kept coming up empty.

Often, we define those empty experiences not as a failure to catch fish but label ourselves as the failure. Jesus the carpenter tells the fishermen to listen to him and cast their nets on the other side of the boat. They did and miraculously their nets were filled. Peter and his crew achieved success when they recognized Jesus in their midst and did as he said.

Like the fisherman, we too can fail to see another side, a better way of doing something or handling a situation. We can never assume that we know it all.

Lord, may I also be aware of your guiding presence, no matter how empty I may feel.