

**6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY EASTER 2021.**

**THE GREAT COMMANDMENT OF LOVE.**

Last Sunday we dealt with the vine and the branches as our relationship with Jesus and with one another. We saw how we should be close and interdependence to one another and to Christ. It told us that we need one another.

In our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles we see the great work of the apostles in evangelization and extending the wings of faith to the Gentiles. They went beyond the Jewish boundaries and reach out to other people. The Gospel of love is witnessed through the proclamation of the word by Peter to Cornelius and his companion who had received the Holy Spirit even before Baptism. What a wonder, for the Holy Spirit to be with these upcoming Christians, and for the Gospel to be preached to all people.

This is our mission too, ***“As the father has send me so am I sending you”.*** ***The Holy Spirit takes the initiative and shows the church which direction it should take.*** The same Spirit is working among us during these challenging moments that we are facing these days. Jesus Christ assured us, ***“ Behold I will be with you till the end of time.”***

The second reading emphasizes that Christians ***must love one another because love comes from God.*** He showed this by sending His son into the world that we might have the fullness of life through Him. In the Gospel today Jesus goes a step further in our relationship with Him and one another, ***“ love one another as I have loved you.”*** The command of love binds Christ to the Father, and it also binds us to Christ and to one another. Jesus emphasizes the fact that we should love one another as He has loved us and laid down His Life for us. No greater love is there than a ***PERSON LAYING DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.***

He is telling us that where people meet in Love, there His presence shall dwell. We need to have that love so that we may be able to give it to

others. This is the call and mission of Christianity. It is not a weakness to admit our need for love. God loves us not because we are good but because He is good. Our existence is a sign of His love. All we need to do is receive it and share it with others. Love demands that we die to self. Selflessness is the central call of today's reading. Christ's real love is not a feeling but an ***act of will, decision, and commitment*** hence we *need to imitate Him*. When we love others, Christ is there to ***care, support, and forgive us no matter what we may have done***. He acknowledges us as one of His own and seeks to correct and assist us in finding the right direction in our life.

The Gospel is calling us to see love as ***decision, commitment and mission***. It is calling us to go beyond the ***passion of love*** which governs the world today. We need to go beyond all that and make ourselves available to others. This is the call of Jesus to us as he passes through the plantations of Vines towards Gethsemane, "***Love one another as I have loved you.***"

***Can we give ourselves to one another as He did to us? Our prayer and our mission should be:***

***Lord, open our hearts when they are closed.***

***Warm them when they are cold.***

***Soften them when they are hard.***

***Heal them when they are wounded.***

***Mend them when they are broken.***

***This will make us his followers and bear fruits of Love.***

***LOVE ONE ANOTHER.***