



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted commentaries and homilies

**May 15, 2022**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Usually when we think of the word “love,” we think of romance, of hearts and flowers and warm fuzzy feelings. But love is more than warm affection and sensual intimacy. There is a larger meaning to love which is revealed in today’s Gospel. For in the gospel Jesus gives a new commandment: we are to love one another as he has loved us. Jesus laid down his life for our salvation. In this action of sacrifice, in this action of love, God has raised him up and made him the head of a new creation. Through Jesus’ act of love, the reign of God is in our midst. Evil continues to be destroyed, and God’s will, is being established among us. Therefore, in Jesus, love is more than compassionate affections, Love is action. Love is more than infatuated feelings. Love is power, the power to change the World.

Love is power. In fact, there is no other power on earth for a good and stronger world, than the love of our brothers and sisters. It is love that gets tired parents out of their bed to care for a sick child. It is love that motivates a hospice worker to be present to a dying man or woman. It is love that leads young people to give years of their life in answer to their vocation call. It is love that motivates persons to join the military and serve for the freedom of a country. It is love that stimulates necessary food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters and AIDS clinics and Covid care. Love is a father or mother working two jobs to feed their children and pay the rent. Love is the choice to forgive an enemy or to sacrifice for peace. Love is what makes the real heroes of our world: a man or woman who could work in a prestigious law firm but chooses instead to work among the poor; a firefighter willing to rush into a burning building and rescue screaming victims. There is no force for good greater in our world than the power of Love.

But we do not have enough of it, is our question we ask ourselves? For all the love that there is, there is still not enough to bring about God’s will for His kingdom. For some reason, we think that we should hold on to love, to preserve it only for ourselves. But love only has power when we let it go and let it flow. It is then that it can make its effect upon others felt in our midst. Sometimes, we think we should limit love to only certain groups, to our family and friends, to those who think and act like us, to those who we know and with whom we are familiar. But if we are to love as Jesus has loved us, we must push beyond the limits which we place on love.

For whom, did Jesus love? Whom did Jesus give his life for? Jesus did not give his life only for his mother and his disciples, only for the Jews and the poor, only for those who were rich or educated, only for those who were righteous or those who were good. Jesus gave his life for everyone, for all of humanity, Jew and Gentile, friend, and enemy.

If we are to love as Jesus loved us, then we must love in a Christian way which is wider and deeper than the way to which we are accustomed. We must push beyond whatever limits we place on love and unite ourselves with our sisters and brothers who love like Christ. We love so that God’s kingdom might be built up, so that we might participate in changing the world. We need that power of love, the love to unite rather than divide, to build up rather than destroy, to heal rather than attack, the love to work for justice rather than to hunger for greed and power. We need the power of love to release it, let it flow from our hearts and minds. If we can love as Jesus has loved us, then as the Michael Jackson song says: We are the World. Love can make a better place for you and me.