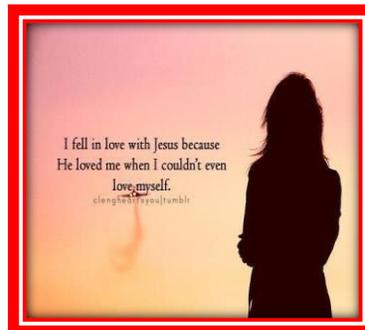


## May 28, 2020 – Thursday of the 7th Week of Easter



**“Growing in our conviction of the deep love that the Father has towards us and thus to orient our lives in a way that is worthy of our call to be one in Him through Love and thus become witnesses of the Kingdom!”  
(Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 and Jn 17:20-26)**

A cute story of a little boy, who loved fruits. This little fellow was once, tempted to pluck some cherries from a tree, which his father had strictly forbidden him to touch. “You need not be afraid,” said his notorious companion, “for if your father should find out that you have taken them, he is too kind to hurt you.” “Ah,” said the brave little fellow, “that is the very reason why I would not touch them; For I know that my father would not hurt me. So I should not hurt him by my disobedience!” The little boy knew the love of his Father towards him and so he dared not hurt his Father. He was not afraid of the punishment of the Father. He was instead afraid of the hurt that would cause pain to the Father. True love causes a holy and pious concern of not wanting to cause any offense to the one who is loved. True Love casts away all fear! True Love drives away every anxiety! It is this True Love of the Father that was made known by Jesus to all of us.

### **1. “You loved them even as You loved me”**

The Gospel of the Day presents Jesus shedding greater light on His intimate relationship with the Father and revealing deeper, the love of the Father for each one of us. Jesus prays, "... so that they may be one, as we are one. I in them and You in Me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me and that you loved them even as you loved me." (Jn 17: 22b, 23). The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus in the Seventeenth Chapter of St John, is another insight into the intimate relationship that Jesus had with His Father. All His life, He sought to do only the Father's Will. **His life, He sought to reveal the love of the Father to the world.**

Jesus wishes to tell us that we have a Father who is deeply interested and caring for us. Jesus wishes to convince us that our lives are secure in the Providential care of the Father. However, our lives sometimes fail to display this trust and confidence in the providential care of the Father. Some of us may have a wrong notion of God being interested only in finding my wrongdoings and punishing me for the same. Some of us

may have the wrong notion of God being too holy and majestic that makes Him unapproachable, unavailable, and inaccessible! But Jesus seeks to drive away all such false impressions.

He tells us that the Father is surely the keeper of justice and may take us through a time of trials and difficulties. But those are not to be seen as cruel punishments, but loving acts for improvements towards a holier life! He tells us that the Father is surely the Lord and Master of the Universe and is totally aware of even the calamities or hardships that befall our lives! In all those hard moments, the loving Father keeps us safely in the palm of His hand, not allowing us, His beloved children to get hurt or harmed!

When we are convinced of the deep love that the Father has towards us, we would be able to orient our lives in a way that is worthy of our call as witnesses of the Kingdom. Jesus by His unity with the Father enjoyed perfect freedom. He invites us to also deepen our union with the Father and enjoy greater freedom of happiness and joy.

## **2. Love and Unity: The love of Jesus within us, the love of God within us, that will bring us into true communion.**

Jesus' prayer for unity among his disciples in this morning's gospel reading has been an inspirational text for the whole ecumenical movement, especially since the Second Vatican Council. 'May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us'. It is clear from that prayer of Jesus that authentic unity among his disciples will always be rooted in their communion with himself and with God the Father, 'may they be one in us'. The deeper our communion with Jesus and God the Father, the more we will be in communion with each other. It is around the Lord that we come together. At the end of the gospel reading, Jesus prays that the love with which God has loved him maybe in his disciples. **It is the love of Jesus within us, the love of God within us, that will bring us into true communion.** The kind of communion that Jesus prays for is not just the fruit of merely human love. It is the fruit of God's love, of Jesus' love within us and between us. If that divine love is to be within us and between us, we need to open ourselves to God's love for us in Jesus, given to us through the Holy Spirit. An appropriate prayer in response to this morning's gospel reading, especially as we approach the feast of Pentecost, would be, 'Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love'. Jesus declares in our gospel reading that only if his love flows between us and overflows beyond us will our witness be recognized as authentic.

### **Let us pray:**

Lord Jesus, may I grow in my conviction of the deep love that the Father has towards me and thus to orient my life in a way that is worthy of Your call as the witness of the Kingdom. Pardon our sins and heal our divisions that we may grow in love, unity, and holiness together as your sons and daughters. Renew in us the power of the Holy Spirit that we may be a sign of that unity and a means of its growth.

**Jesus, I Trust In You**