

Sixth Sunday of Easter B - Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

May 9, 2021

Second Sunday in May is **Mother's Day**. **May the blessings of the Lord be upon all mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, religious mothers, and mothers-to-be.** ♡♡♡♡

In August 16, 1987, Northwest Airlines Flight 255 took off from the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Twenty seconds later it crashed and killed 156 people. Only one person survived—a 4-year-old girl named Cecelia from Tempe, Arizona. How did she make it when everyone else died? Rescuers pieced together what likely happened. Evidently, when the passengers realized they were going to crash, Cecelia's mother took off her seatbelt, turned around, and got in front of her child. She surrounded her with her body, covering her in her love, protecting her little girl. **The mother gave her life for her child.** I strongly believe that all women are born loved and committed to their child from conception. It's the media and society that misled them on "free choice" and misinterpret the true meaning of "freedom", thus distancing them from Jesus. **It is when we remain close to Jesus our Lord, we are truly free: "...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17).**

Motherhood is a school of wisdom. For nine months a mother bears her child, who grows slowly, but surely and steadily, in her womb. She knows that she cannot rush the process; she must be patient, both before and after the child's birth. And so each day becomes a precious opportunity to love, to hope, to wait, and to trust in the mysterious design of God. This is the experience of every mother, and most especially of the Mother of God, Mary. On this Mother's Day, we should thank our mothers for their hidden sacrifices, their constant love, and their invaluable generosity. And we should do so even more in this day and age when mothers are under attack by a culture that undervalues motherhood. But we should not only thank them, we should also learn from them. To show our gratitude to them, it is more than just buying expensive gifts, or treating them with a surprised dinner. Remember Motherhood is a school wisdom. We have to be good students ourselves. Don't forget that as children of God, we are children of Virgin Mary too. As St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, the founder of the Company of Mary, the Daughters of Wisdom said, **"If you put all the love of all the mothers into one heart, it still would not equal the love of the Heart of Mary for her children."**

As we come closer to Pentecost and the end of the Easter season, the Church brings us back to the Last Supper with today's Gospel passage (John 15:9-17). The moment is solemn. Jesus is at table with his intimate collaborators, his handpicked Twelve Apostles. At that Last Supper, Jesus was at the climax of his earthly mission and on the verge of his final battle against evil and all the forces of darkness. And the Church he is forming through his Apostles will take that same battle to the ends of the earth and to every corner of human history and culture. The plan is so simple and straightforward, summed up in this single, final, definitive command: **love one another as I have loved you. We are Christ's soldiers, and that is our mission.**

Jesus explains that he has loved us, and that he longs for us to remain in his love, to stay in his friendship, so that we may experience the indescribable joy that flows from true love. Jesus combines and summarizes all his teachings and his entire life into a final Commandment: **love one another as I have loved you. "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God."** If Christ's battle plan is for us to love others, to give of ourselves for the benefit of others, just as he did for us, then we need to ask ourselves: **"What is the very best thing I can do for my neighbour?"** There are

many good things we can do: give food and clothing to those in need, give education to the ignorant and comfort to the sick and dying... Those are some of what the Church traditionally calls the "**works of mercy**," and they are concrete ways we can serve our neighbour. But the very best thing we can do for another person is to bring them into friendship with Jesus Christ. As I said last week, we as the faithful of our Diocese, need to support our St Paul Diocesan Caritas formation and commit ourselves to bring other faithful together, to share our gifts from God: talents, time and treasures and to pray for the success.

This is what we see happening in today's First Reading (Acts 10.25-26, 34-35, 44-48). St Peter brings the good news of Jesus Christ and the grace of the sacraments, to Cornelius (a high-ranking officer in the Roman army) and the friends and family members that he had gathered in his house to meet the Apostle. What's remarkable is that Cornelius was not Jewish, as most of the first Christians had been, but pagan. When the good news of salvation through Jesus reaches him and he is given the sacraments, his whole household is filled with amazement, joy, and new life. This is what friendship with Christ brings into people's hearts: meaning, purpose, hope, and knowledge of the truth! Those are things that the human heart desires even more than food, clothing, and worldly success. God is prodigal in his gifts, pouring out the Holy Spirit on all. We who have been baptized in his Spirit are called to be living stones building up His Kingdom, to generously share the gifts of our time, treasure and talents with those whom we love, especially our children.

May is also the Month of our Mother Mary. Though there are so much anxiety and worries going on with our community in this time of State of Emergency with increased covid cases, outbreaks in almost all schools, oil sands sites and camps in Fort McMurray, we can, as Pope Francis suggested, spend some time daily to say the Rosary asking Mary, the Mother of Hope, Help of Christians, Comforter of the afflicted and Health of the Sick to give us each day her holy and maternal blessing to stop the spread of the virus, and to heal the sick worldwide, especially in India.

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.