

6th Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 | Ps 98:1-4 | 1 Jn 4:7-10 | Jn 15:9-17

Pray: My Lord and my God, abide in me, dwell in me, work with me, and love others through me so my joy will be complete. Amen.

Know Christ, Love Christ, and Love Christ in Others.

“Love one another as I have loved you,” says Jesus. At the heart of all Christian faith are the words of the apostle John, who says that God’s very being is love. “God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.” In today’s Gospel, Jesus says, “You are to love one another....it is I who chose you.”

Has God chosen us to love everyone? Some people are easy to love, especially those who act and think like us. At times, though, it can be difficult to show love towards family and friends we generally like, let alone those outside our circle of friendship. Why is this? The main reason we have trouble loving others is sin, both ours and the sin of those we are trying to love. Without the power and grace of God, we can be very selfish. Without God’s grace, it’s easier for us to love ourselves and prioritize our own time, wants, needs, and narrow-minded wills than to love others through the eyes of God, whose holy will is always in our best interest.

Jesus never promised that love would be easy. He showed love and compassion to everyone, even those who mocked and hated Him. He embodied love in all His words and deeds, showing love back to those who hurt Him and those nobody else seemed to care about. He especially loved the poor, vulnerable, marginalized, and excluded. Jesus was unafraid to show love by setting



healthy boundaries, sharing hard truths with the lost, and giving correction and forgiveness to those who repented to direct them on the right path.

God’s love is divine, and we are mere humans with too much reliance on our feelings and selfish

attitudes, so how can we possibly love everyone as God commands? God demonstrated His love for us through the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, His only Son, who suffered, died, and rose again to save us. He showed us that love is a sacrifice of ourselves for others. The more we know Jesus, the more we love Him, and we will want to love Christ as reflected in the faces of others. Every time we receive Christ’s Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist and we trust in the Holy Spirit to guide us, Jesus strengthens us to love as He loves.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † How have you experienced God’s love for you? How have you seen God’s love revealed in the lives of others?
- † How can you give the love of Christ to someone this week? How can we love others by sharing Christ’s truth and hope?
- † How does loving others fulfill our joy in the Lord?
- † How does receiving the Eucharist help us to love others better?