

JANUARY 6, 2022
Thursday after the Epiphany of the Lord
Luke 4: 14-22a

“BE THE FACE OF LOVE.”

Our first reading today is the continuation of yesterday’s reading. Today, we are challenge by the words of St. John the Evangelist to make our love concrete. He said: “We love because He first loved us. Those who say, ‘I love God,’ and hate their brothers or sisters are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from Him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.”¹ Love is beyond words; it must be seen in action. Words are nothing without proper action. We can not say we love God if we do not act and share it with our brothers and sisters. This is basic tenet of God but sometimes hard to live and act on it.

In the gospel, Jesus went to His hometown and at the synagogue, He read a passage from the Prophet Isaiah. He knew that He will not be accepted there but the Word of God, the Good News must be proclaimed to open the eyes and heart of every people. He tried but the people accepted it superficially. Only those who are open and willing can understand His invitation. Speaking in the synagogue, Jesus says that the Words He proclaimed among them is fulfilled and this Word is the good news of joy to everyone. Likewise, my brothers and sisters, in every Eucharistic celebration, Jesus proclaims to us the good news of God’s redemptive and liberating love, as He is present among us. And by this Eucharist, His Spirit rests on every one of us now and provides us the capacity to speak, act and to be messengers of hope, joy, and love to our neighbor, to our brothers and sisters. So, let us ask the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist to guide and lead us to do our mission of love and God's love will be experienced by all through us, unworthy

¹ 1 John 4: 19-21 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

we are. Like Jesus, from our mouth, we may speak gracious and inspiring words to others and lead them back to Him through our good example. Pope Francis said: “Jesus taught once and for all that love for God and love for one's neighbour are inseparable; indeed, more than that, they support one another. Even if placed in sequence, they are the two faces of a single coin: lived together they are the true strength of the believer! To love God is to live by Him and for Him, for what He is and for what He does. It means, to invest one's energies every day to be his collaborators in serving our neighbour without reserve, in trying to forgive without limits and in cultivating relationships of communion and fraternity.”²

My sisters and brothers, let us allow His words of Truth and Love penetrate our heart and transform our lives so that people around us may see Jesus in us, and they, too, be transform to the image of Jesus, the face of Truth and Love.

² www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2018-11/pope-francis-angelus