

MAY 15, 2020
Friday of the 5th Week of Easter
John 15: 12-17

“MY COMMANDMENT: LOVE”

Last Monday, May 11, in gospel reading Jesus told us: “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”¹ This is the manifestation that we can truly follow the Lord only through and by love. Then, our gospel for today is reminding us and Jesus is directly telling us, without any doubt or hesitation or pretenses, a command that we need to follow: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”² Everything that God the Father did was ,and still doing it, is to love. God is love as Sacred Scriptures tell us, and everything flows from His enormous love for us. His love is far beyond what we could imagine, think, or deserve. His love is everlasting and beyond comparison. This love is ultimately showed to us through Jesus Christ – He sent His Only Begotten Son, who gave up everything for us, to redeem us and make known God the Father. Through Jesus’ love, His death on the cross and His resurrection, He gave us everlasting life and we became sons and daughters of God the Father in Christ.

Because of His love, He gave His life for the sake of His friends. “Jesus calls His disciples His personal friends. Jesus not only showed His disciples that He personally cared for them and sought their welfare. He personally enjoyed their company and wanted to be with them in a close and intimate relationship. He ate with them, shared everything He had with them - even His innermost heart and thoughts. And He spent Himself in doing as much good for them as He could. The distinctive feature of Jesus’ relationship with His disciples was His personal, loyal, and sacrificial love for each one of them. He loved His own to the end (John 13:1). His love was unconditional and wholly

¹ John 14: 23 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

² John 14: 12 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

directed to the good of others. His love was costly and sacrificial. He gave the best He had and all that He had. He gave His very own life for those He loved in order to secure for them an everlasting life of union and love with the Father in heaven.”³

This past day, reflecting on my own Yes to God which I made 25 years ago, there’s a lot of things that lingers my mind. The situation that we are experiencing now, lead me to question the relevance of my priestly ministry. Am I still relevant? Am I still doing His works? Am I still less unworthy of His calling? What and who I am today? With these questions, while reading the gospel and preparing this homily, the Lord gave me the answer: “You did not choose me, but I chose you.”⁴ Bullseyes and direct to my heart! This passage was my maxim when I was ordained! Thinking of my own weaknesses and sinfulness, He considered me and still does, to be one of “His friends”, and sent me to do missionary works for Him. He reminded me, even I am not worthy, and commanded me to do my part, to do His works, to spread the gospel of love. I am nothing but He loves me so much. That’s what friends are for. “The Lord Jesus tells us (and saying personally to me) that He is our personal friend and He loves us wholeheartedly and unconditionally. He wants us to love one another just as He has loved us, wholeheartedly, without reserve, and full of mercy, kindness, and forgiveness. His love fills our hearts and transforms our minds and frees us to give ourselves in loving service to others. If we open our hearts to His love and obey His command to love our neighbor, then we will know His love more fully and we will bear much fruit - especially the fruit of peace, joy, patience, kindness, and goodness - the kind of fruit that lasts for eternity.”⁵

So, my sisters and brothers, let us continue the mission of Jesus, to love one another as He loved us so much. Amen.

³ <http://dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org>

⁴ John 14: 16 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

⁵ <http://dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org>