

## Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

### Faith in Laity Corner



*Readings: Acts 1 John 4:7-10; Jn. 15:9-14*

6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter

Monday, May 07, 2018

## Love Promises

Few of us as living humans can claim that sometime during the course of our lives that there were some extended feelings of love for another person. How long those feelings lasted depended upon who the person was and the circumstances of that love. A priest said today at Mass that *'the human heart reaches its satisfaction when it loves'*. What a powerful thought!! Love is a truly living, human experience, we can only extend this love toward others while we are alive. The ability to love, as we know it ends when we die; as we are on to another phase of existence. One of the greatest error people make about love is to think that love is a 'feeling'. Love is NOT a feeling- it is a cognitive decision a person makes to really love another person; despite the shortcomings, that person may have. So it is possible to love someone who does not love you in return.

The Readings for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter explores the notion of love. Jesus was adamant:

*"Let us love one another", (1 Jn.4:7)*

We are asked by Jesus over and over to 'love' or to show love towards each other. If as humans there is love, then God works through us. God is love, and love is God. Through His love, He created each and every one with a uniqueness never to be replicated again.

*"Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love." (1 Jn.4:8)*

Our human love can only unfold within the essence of God's love. Love can only be manifested through our presences in God's love.

*As the Father loves me, so I also love you. (Jn.15:9)*

We do not have the capacity as humans to love in the true sense; our love must stream from the love that God showers upon us. Love is an action, not an emotive feeling.

In this way the love of God has revealed to us: God sent His Son on this earth so that we can learn from His example.

*"God sent his only Son into the world*

*so that we might have life through him" (1 Jn, 4:9)*

God demonstrated to us what is love – to send His Son, who was blameless to take on our sins. Not only was He to take our sins upon Himself, but He was ridiculed, beaten, betrayed and then executed Roman style. Jesus the victim, did this for us all, not only for those friends who betrayed Him, but for those of us in the past and those who were not even born as yet. His death was for us all.

*"He loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins." (1 Jn. 4:10)*

Jesus in the Father's love promises us that at the end of our life on this earth, we have the hope of going to heaven.

There are some requirements for us to keep God's love in our lives, our connectedness with God has to be ongoing-. to find the *God-love strength*.

*"Remain in My love" (Jn. 15:9)*

There are some conditions which will enable us to use our God-love for the good of *others*. The lines of prayer and conversations with God must be constant.

*"If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love." (Jn. 15:10)*

We have to be connected- to love, love does not exist in angry, malice, revenging silence. God wants us to be on good terms with Him, always. Love does not eliminate the reality

of pain; we love in our pain, in our doubt, in our uncertainties. Make no mistake that love does not stop things from humanly going wrong, but it gives us the ability to feel *God's love promise of joy.*

*"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you  
and your joy may be complete (Jn.15:11)*

May we always remember that God's love is our joy, allowing ourselves to be in God's love we earn the capacity to love others. Love is not a human capacity, but a *God-given* gift. We are asked by God to 'love' everyone....

*This is my commandment:  
love one another as I love you (Jn. 15:12)*

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*Let us pray for our people in Hawaii that the forces of nature will calm, that those who are in danger will be protected. We continue to pray for our political leaders, that they will put the people they govern before publicity, patronage and power as create legislature. Protect our families and community under the protection of St, Michael.*

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**Faith in Laity Corner** is a weekly review of Sunday's reading written by  
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