

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, May 15, 2022
5th Sunday of Easter
Cycle C

“I give you a new commandment: love one another.”

What is ‘new’ in Jesus’ commandment of love? Since the beginning of time, there was already love. Before Jesus came, many had already taught about love and had commanded others to love. The command “to love one another” has always been there –being communicated by God in different ways. So, what is new in this command of Jesus? Let us listen to what follows: “As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” That is what is NEW! Jesus does not say: “Love one another.” Period! Rather, he says, “Love one another... as I have loved you.”

The newness here is not so much in the loving. The newness is in loving one another the way Jesus has loved us. Jesus is the one who brings newness to love. The love of Christ makes us learn to love in a new way. It will make our loving for one another always new.

We must always remember our covenant with Jesus. We must keep in our minds and hearts that we have committed our lives to him as our Lord and Savior, that we have promised to follow him closely and faithfully, that we will imitate his way of living, his way of loving, that we will love one another as he has loved us.

Jesus says, “This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” As Christians, as disciples of Jesus, our love will be the living sign of Jesus’ love in the world today.” May people recognize in all of us the love of Jesus. Through our love for one another –a love patterned after the love of Jesus.

Without the love of Christ being manifested by us, our teachings may sound good, but will remain empty.

Without the love of Christ being demonstrated by us, our deeds may look impressive, but will be fruitless.

Without the love of Christ being shown, especially to the poor, our social actions may be timely, but will only be for a show.

Without the love of Christ being reflected in our life, our faith-symbols may be beautiful, but will end up being decorations only.

Without the love of Christ being expressed in our life, our liturgical celebrations may be well-prepared, but will be meaningless and without relevance.

Without the love of Christ being communicated to those who are discouraged and even hopeless, then, we are not being good news to others.

We love others by responding to their everyday needs with genuine concern and compassion.

We love others by comforting and protecting those who have experienced loss.

We love others by serving them in every possible way –no matter how small, seeing Jesus' face in them.

We love others by forgiving rather than condemning, by challenging rather than condoning.

We love others by sacrificially sharing our time, talents and blessings with them. This is the way Jesus loved all of us, sacrificial and without conditions.

Let us pray that we may respond to Christ's love by learning to truly love each other from the heart, through loving relationships and humble service. It is through this that we can truly glorify God from our hearts.