

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Sunday, May 9, 2021  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Cycle B

I remember when I was a child every time I got hurt I always run crying to my mother. And then my mother lovingly blows into and kisses the painful part and then tells me that the pain is gone. And, like magic, I felt relieved thereafter.

My dear friends we all know that a mother's love is even more evident when her child gets sick. She attends to all his/her needs – day and night. She makes him/her as comfortable as possible. She only sleeps when she feels that the child is already sleeping and breathing easily. But even while asleep, she has all her senses awake, listening for any sign of discomfort. This is also the very memory I had with my mother.

In both instances, we see the mother loving her child “all the way.” It would not be farfetched to say that one of the closest approximations of God's love for us is that of a mother for her child. Still, it is a far approximation of God's love for us. For as God himself has said, can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. God loves us “all the way.”

His Son Jesus, too, has loved us “all the way.” In the second reading John tells us, in this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In the Gospel reading, Jesus tells us that his love for us is the same as His Father's love for him, as the Father loves me, so I also love you. He also said, No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends, and he carried this out by giving up his life for us in loving obedience to his Father's will. For Jesus, to love is to forget one's self in favor of the one loved.

Having shown how he has loved us “all the way”, Jesus now tells all of us to also love him “all the way.” How? By keeping the commandments. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.

Imitating the kind of love Jesus has for us will make us better people. It will enable us to love even those whom we consider unlovable, especially, those who look down on us or those who destroy our reputation. And who knows, our love and forgiveness for them may also lead them to the source of our own love, Jesus, and make them his friends, too.

Easy to do? Of course not. But who says that loving is easy? The mother who spent sleepless nights taking care of her sick child does not say that loving is easy. Neither does Jesus – he gave up his life for us to show us how dearly he loves us.

Following Jesus’ example these days is no longer a matter of dying on a cross but of living for the welfare of others. Regardless, this kind of loving still entails a lot of sacrifice. And this is what Jesus wants us to do if we are to remain in his love. Because this is the only way that His joy might be in us and our joy might be complete.

Amen