

Fr. Romeo Homily
February 3, 2019
4th Sunday Ordinary Time (C)

C.S. Lewis, the great Christian writer, gives this definition of Love: Love is willing the ultimate good for the other person. “Today’s second reading contains one of the most famous and popular descriptions of Love. It is commonly called St. Paul’s Hymn of Love. Paul begins by naming two down-to-earth qualities of Love – “Love is patient. Love is kind”.

It is said that there are three requirements to be a good friend or a good spouse: patience, patience, and patience. There was this woman in Paris who developed a great reputation as a marriage counselor – someone who saved many marriages that seemed to be on the rocks. Towards the end of her life, somebody asked her what secret she shared with couples who came to her for counsel. She said, “In many ways, in different words, directly or indirectly, I really tell them one thing only: to be patient with each other”.

Of course, this advice is not only good for married couples, but for all of us. Patience in marriage, in friendship, or in any relationship for that matter is almost everything. So much of human loving is patience – and its twin, forgiveness.

Again, “Love is patient”. And St. Paul adds, “Love is kind”. Kindness is the second requirement of love. Seneca, the Roman philosopher, once said, “Kindness is a language the deaf can hear and the dumb can understand”.

More often, what is asked of us is to do simple expressions of kindness, little favors, small acts of charity and service for others. We are all capable of such acts of kindness. Kindness is a little virtue, shown in little things. But in love, it is the little things that make the difference. And most of the time this is how God’s grace operates in our lives.

It is in little things, in ordinary things, that sometimes God works in mysterious ways. And we need a patient and kind heart that we may learn the real worth of these ordinary things that happen every day in our lives.

In our gospel today, the people of Nazareth failed to recognize the real worth of Jesus as the promised "Messiah". They forget Jesus' marvelous deeds and his gracious words and teachings as they become fixated or scandalized by his "ordinariness". They are not wise enough to realize that God can reveal himself in ordinary, unspectacular ways.

Being patient and being kind always makes a difference on how we see things around us. He can also make a difference in the lives of others.

This is our challenge and let's face it: It is difficult to always be kind and patient, because people around us are not always like that. However, we have to try to be kind even if people are not. Then for sure we can make a difference in the world we live in.

Love is Patient.....Love is Kind.