

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HALF HOUR–MAY 4, 2018

“Love one another, as I have loved you” (Jn15: 12)

Opening Hymn No:153- Greater love and friendship...

Introduction:

As we approach the Sixth Sunday of Easter, Jesus directs our entire focus towards “LOVE”. Today we will reflect on the three levels of love that the Gospel talks about – Firstly, God’s love for his son Jesus; Secondly, Jesus’ love for his disciples which is reciprocated in the disciples love for Christ and for each other and thirdly, our love for one another.

“Love” is the essence of today’s reflection; a love that begins with the Father, which flows through the Son to the disciples. The mutual love that the Father and the Son share provides the foundation for both Jesus’ love for his disciples, and the love that the disciples have for one another. This same love helps the disciples to form an intimate friendship with the Lord. In a similar way, we too are called to love one another as Christ loves us.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

As we spend these moments in the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, let us focus on the words of Christ “I shall not call you servants any more, I have called you friends”. True friendship with Jesus is expressed through goodness of heart, humility, mercy, love for justice and truth, a sincere commitment to peace and reconciliation. **(Silence 2 min)**

Jesus says, “You did not choose me, I chose you to go out and bear fruit”; how fortunate I am that God has chosen me to carry out his mission. **(Silence 1 min)**

Scripture Reading: Jn 15:9-17

REFLECTION:

The greatest love that a person can have is to sacrifice his life for his friends. This does not just mean DYING FOR OTHERS as Jesus did. It also means LIVING FOR OTHERS by constantly

putting the well-being and the needs of others before our own. Are we able to sacrifice our time, our intellect, our talents and our efforts for the benefit of others? **(Silence 1 min)**

Jesus loves us unconditionally despite our faults and our weaknesses. He loves every single person without exception, even those whom we would consider wicked or hateful. We too would want to love people unconditionally. However, we find it so difficult to love those who have hurt us or those who do not reciprocate our love. Can I resolve today to overlook another's faults and imperfections and to see the face of Christ in each one of them?

(Silence 1 min)

God does not choose the brightest or the smartest for his disciples. He CHOOSES us, the humble, ordinary people because he sees the infinite potential within each of us and then he EMPOWERS us to go out and be productive in building up his kingdom. Am I ready to accept God's call to love and service? **(Silence 1 min)**

Hymn: No. 16 - A new commandment I give unto you

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS:

Eternal Father, with faith in your everlasting love, we place before you our humble petitions:

Response: Loving Father, hear our prayer.

That our Holy Father, bishops, priests, and religious may bring Jesus to everyone and bring the whole world to Jesus through acts of mercy and loving service; we pray to the Lord...

That world leaders may always seek the ways of righteousness, justice and mercy in leading their citizens with honesty and integrity; we pray to the Lord...

That those working in God's vineyard may toil tirelessly to sow the seeds of love and peace in a world driven with war, crime, hatred and injustice; we pray to the Lord...

That through our acts of loving service, peace and compassion may prevail throughout the world, especially in areas of conflict; we pray to the Lord...

That those who have experienced the ravages of war, terrorism and crime may be strengthened and comforted by the loving presence of Jesus in their lives; we pray to the Lord...

That those who have rejected God's love or have gone astray may once again find safety and comfort in God's loving arms; we pray to the Lord...

God our Father, you have promised that you would grant us anything we asked for in your name; look with favour on these our humble petitions; we make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

As we prepare for Benediction, we remember the invitation of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI to always be a friend of Jesus. "There is nothing more beautiful than to know Jesus and to

Speak to others of our friendship with him. Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation."

Benediction Hymn:

Divine Praises:

Concluding Hymn No: 160 - Hand in hand with Christ... (v 1/3) OR Hymn No: 465 - With a song...

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