



OUR MISSION, OUR MESSAGE
Easter Season 2021 – Week 6

We are on mission to Share Christ with the World - Our message follows the witness stories of the early Church in the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel instruction from the Risen Jesus.

In the days since Easter, Jesus was preparing his apostles to build the Church. Their ability to share Christ's story and His love would be essential. That is our mission today.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

As we celebrate the gift of mothers this week and honor Our Blessed Mother, we invite you to pray for the vocation of motherhood:

For all mothers:

That they may be supported and encouraged in their special vocation of love;
That their children will honor their many sacrifices by lives of service and virtue;

For mothers facing unexpected pregnancies:

That they may find strength and courage in the example of our Blessed Mother;

For all mothers awaiting the birth of their children:

That the Lord protect them and bring their babies to safe delivery;

For all married couples struggling to have a child:

That the Lord grant them peace as they hope for the gift of a son or daughter;

For all those longing to welcome a child through adoption:

May the Lord guide their journey and grant them peace along the way;

For mothers who mourn the loss of a child:

That they may find peace and consolation in the hope of eternal life;

For all these intentions, we pray to the Lord.

Sixth Sunday of Easter • May 9, 2021

1st READING: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 **2nd READING:** 1 John 4: 7-10

GOSPEL: Jn 15: 9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.

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.

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

REFLECTION

All three readings today highlight God's initiative in the world – God is love. God gives love. God asks us to share love. He sent his Son to show us what that looks like. He gives us the Spirit to empower us to act.

In the first reading, it is God through Peter who launches the Gentile mission in conferring the Spirit upon Cornelius' household. In the familiar refrain on the primacy of love, the second reading reminds us that it is God who first loves us, and the Gospel says the same in referring to our selection as disciples. We do not have to search God out. He comes looking for us. This week's Gospel is part 2 of the True Vine parable at the Last Supper that we read last week in which we heard, "Remain in me". Jesus goes deeper: "Remain in my LOVE".

DISCUSSION

- Gentile, Jew, Christian, Catholic....have you had many "faith" conversations with people of different beliefs? How do you share your faith story in those settings?
- Jesus explains to the disciples when, how and why their joy will be complete. What brings you "complete" joy? How do you look at happiness vs. joy?
- We hear the word Love 18 times in Scripture this Sunday. The Church is built on love - shared through the Father, Son, Holy Spirit and us.
 - In your relationship with Christ – when you hear 'You did not choose Me, but I CHOSE YOU'....do you feel that way? Does this make you less connected or more connected to God – close or convenient, not in control or comforted? How does unconditional love, knowing it is always there for you, affect the dynamic of your relationship?

- Christ’s command to “love one another as I have loved you” may seem daunting. Does juxtaposing love and commandment seem contrary, make it more challenging, or keep it more mindful? How do “commandments” channel your daily life?
- Love one another as I have loved you – the commandment, can also be seen as a call to model Christ. Complete this sentence, I most imitate Christ when ____?
- Do you love like Jesus?
 - **Love purposefully** - like the Son of the Father - who was made from Love to Love
 - **Love with humility** – learned from Blessed Mother Mary and his earthly father Joseph
 - **Love sacrificially** – lay down your life for your beloved
 - **Love without judgment:** as we are, despite any faults and shortcomings

• Christ would never ask something of us that we cannot live out. All we need to do is take baby steps. Share an experience when you felt the love of Christ through someone else, perhaps a simple act that, to this day, you remember – a holy moment that had an impact on you?

ON MISSION - INVITATION

Our parish journey, “Created and Called to Love” has been unfolding with each message and season of the year, through Scripture and informed by the Holy Father’s encyclical Laudato Si’.

“We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason “each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary..” p65

As part of the global anniversary celebration of Laudato Si’, the pope is asking us to consider how we work together as one human family to love and care for “Our Common Home”. You are invited to a morning of prayer, reflection and discussion led by our parish priests.

Care for Our Common Home
 PRAY, REFLECT, ACT
 May 22 – 9am-12noon
 Parish Life Center or Zoom
 Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/Laudato>



Series Prayer to Share the Joy of Easter

Good and gracious God, Our most glorious Creator, We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever and ever. AMEN

Oración para compartir la alegría de la Pascua

Dios bueno y misericordioso, Nuestro más glorioso Creador, Te alabamos en esta temporada de Pascua y siempre. Cambia nuestras vidas, cambia nuestros corazones para ser mensajeros de la alegría y la esperanza pascuales. Te lo pedimos por Jesucristo, nuestro Señor resucitado por los siglos de los siglos.
 AMÉN