

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

A young man wrote this to his girlfriend. "Sweetheart, if this world was as hot as the Sahara Desert, I would crawl on my knees through the burning sand to come to you. If the world would be like the Atlantic Ocean, I would swim through shark-infested waters to come to you. I would fight the fiercest dragon to be by your side. I will see you on Thursday if it does not rain."

Dear Friends,

As we remember Mother's day this weekend. Let us be grateful to God for our Mothers. They show the agape love of Jesus. They sacrifice a lot because they love their children always.

Today's readings reveal the motherly love of God to his children. In the first reading, Peter tells that God never shows partiality. He loves his people. He has shown his love abundantly in so many ways. I used to ask parents, "Who is your favorite among all your children? They say all are. Sometimes the older one or the younger one get to be the favorite one because of so many reasons. Parents love their children equally.

When I was home, I noticed my grandma used to come to our house and stayed longer than any of her children. I used to wonder and I asked her why one time. She said that she saw my Mom working hard for her living than the other children and she wanted to help her a bit. It doesn't mean that she did not love other children rather she had more concern and love towards my mom because of her situation. I read the same with God. He loves everyone equally and he has more concerns with the afflicted.

St. Paul writes to Galatians 3: 28 where he says, "There is no neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus".

God's love is a self-giving love that expects no return. He gives and forgives. The whole gospel talks overwhelmingly about love. Jesus gives us three basic directions to his disciples.

1) Remain in my love. Here he relates himself with the father. "As the father loves me, I love you" which means God loves him and he loves them. Jesus brings a triangular love in that relationship and asking them to stay active in the relationship. Being active and stay connected is the main thing in the relationship.

2) Love one another. When we remain in God's love, we have the ability to love one another. We need to do it in actions. Love needs to be expressed in the same way that

God expressed to the disciples that it is a self-giving love. Jesus laid his life for his friends as we are all friends of God.

3) Remaining in the friendship: Jesus said that he would call them friends, not slaves. This is not a superficial love, rather it is rooted in the father and son and have for each other. This relationship prompted to give the life for one another.

We need to cultivate an abiding and loving friendship with Jesus. All of us to need to express it in our relationships with others by loving them, showing them trust and faithfulness, equality, forgiveness, joy and sacrifice. The most effective way of communicating God's love to others is by accepting as they are and treating everyone as a friend, giving everyone the respect he or she deserves.