

Seventh Sunday of Easter – Homily “Love and Truth”

“Love and Truth”

Scripture and Motherly love

In today’s second reading (1 John 4:11-16) we are presented with the greatest single statement ever made about God in the entire Bible... “God is Love.” In this we witness a love that is... generous and selfless, faithful and merciful, active and truthful. When we love one another in this way, we make God present. Many of us have experienced a glimpse of this kind of love through our very own Mothers... A love that is generous, selfless, and faithful. A love that reveals a glimpse of the truth of the love that God has for us.

“God is love”

The statement... “God is Love,” is a declaration of truth... It is the key to unlocking the most profound mysteries of our human existence.

Love explains the gift of creation and our place in it. Creation is essential to God’s very nature. If God is love he cannot exist in lonely isolation. Love must have someone to love and someone to return that love.

Love explains the gift of free will. Freedom is essential to love... love cannot exist without it. If God is merely about law, then there is no need for choice. God would simply have created a world in which everything is programmed to follow his commands. In that kind of creation, there is no need for personal relationships. Love is of necessity... a free response of the heart. So God, by a deliberate act of “self-limitation”, endowed us with free will...

Love explains God’s providence... His care and action in our life and our world. If God were simply intellect, order, and law, he would have created the universe and then wound it up, set it in motion, and left it to it’s own devices. But because God is love His creating act is followed by his constant care and presence.

Love explains the cross and our redemption. If God were just law and justice, he would simply have left us to the consequences of our sin. The moral law would operate; the soul that sinned would die; and eternal justice would relentlessly hand out its punishments. But the very fact that God is love meant that he had to seek and

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save that which is lost. He had to find a remedy for sin... that remedy was a gift of self until there was nothing left to give.

Love explains the reality of eternal life (heaven). If God were simply a creator, we might live our brief span of life and then die forever. The life, which ended early, would be only another flower, which the frost of death had withered too soon. But the fact that God is love makes it certain that the chances and changes of life do not have the last word, and that his love will readjust the balance of this life.

The Prayer of Jesus

Today’s Gospel highlights the things Jesus prayed for. Chief among these is the unity of his disciples... that they all would be one. He also prayed that they might be consecrated in truth. Unity and truth are rooted in love. The prayer of Jesus emphasizes that we are to be a community of love

The great truth that God is one, and yet Three Persons, makes it possible for the statement ‘God is love’ to have meaning. The great love and goodness of God for his people is all grounded in the love, which the Father has for the Son. God’s love for his creation is the extension of the Father’s love for the Son. This love from God to his people is to be the measure of our love for one another

Our call, our destiny, is to be caught up in the mutual love of the Father and the Son and to know the overwhelming joy of their embrace. That love is essentially the Holy Spirit, and it is the Spirit that enables us to receive and to give love that goes beyond our human capacities. It is the desire to live with the one who lived and died heroically for us.

And if people can see the unity of love in the Christian community, the attraction will be virtually irresistible. The pagans said of the first Christians... “See how they love one another.” It was by that visible witness of love that scores of people were led to embrace the faith and, in so doing, enter the Father’s embrace. It was not only the miracle of the resurrection that won the pagan world to embrace the cross; it was also the miracle of love and unity they saw before their very eyes in the Christian community.

Mother’s... Witnesses of God’s Action in the World

Today we celebrate Mother’s Day, honoring our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and all those who have acted as mothers in our lives. They are living

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witnesses of God’s action in the world... As we reflect on the mom’s in our life today, perhaps we will come realize all they have done for us. Perhaps we will be reminded of them as we read John’s words... “if we love one another, God remains in us, and God’s love is brought to perfection in us” (1 John 4:12). The love we have received from those we connect with as mothers’ remains in us, perfects us, and gives witness to the truth that “God is love.”