

## Sixth Sunday of Easter 2018

My beloved brothers and sisters, we are coming to the end of the Easter Season; although Easter lives now, for all Eternity in the Resurrected Lord. The Church brings us back to the start of it all in the Last Supper in Jesus' final farewell to His beloved friends gathered with Him. They know that this is the most profound moment, and there are no casual words used, both because of the sacred nature of the Ritual of Passover, but also because of the terrible cataclysm that Jesus will be facing in the cross.

It is in this spirit that Jesus tells us how much He loves us, and that He longs with all of His being, the being of God in the flesh, to remain in His love. Remember, these are His final words. He tells us that He loves us, and wants us to remain in His infinite, indescribable joy that flows from His love. He then gives us His final commandment: "Love one another, as I have loved you!" Jesus has now given us three commandments that sum up the entire Law and Covenant: Love God with you whole heart, your whole mind and your whole strength. Love your neighbor as yourself, and Love one another as I have loved you. But the question must be asked: "How can anyone command someone to love?" "How is it possible to love like He has loved us?" Even more baffling, Jesus commands us to love our enemies, how can anyone do that? We cannot, not without the Divine Life that flows through us from Jesus. He enables us to love like He loves!

Jesus is in His final battle against the evil one, the prince of this world, and against all of the forces of evil and darkness. He has joined His church and us who belong to Him, in this same battle to the ends of the earth and to the end of time. The weapon He has given us to defeat these formidable forces, is the weapon of His divine love. To choose to love is to defeat the evil one, sin and death, and to live in the Resurrection Glory of Jesus! It is so simple: love one another as I have loved you; yet, it is impossible and formidable without His first commandment: Love God with your whole heart, your whole mind and all of your strength!

The idea of this true love is not pie in the sky! It is a choice that we must make every single day. It has nothing to do with feeling good, it has everything to do with doing good! It is not self-centered, but proactive. It is not what I get out of

it, but how much more can I give. It is constantly thinking about my spouse and the little things I can do for them, my parents, and gratitude lived out for them, my boss, co-workers, neighbors, friends and classmates, my brothers and sisters in the parish, the poor; it is deliberately seeking ways to be kind and generous! That is the love that Jesus calls us to have, the same infinite love that He constantly shows to us!