**5th Sunday Easter, Cycle. C. 2025.**

**As we continue our Celebration of Easter,** we are challenged today by the Lord’s’ “**new Command”**, calling upon us “***to love one another***” as He loves us. It is the very sign of our discipleship in Christ. But, **this is not a love that most of the world recognize**. This is the kind of **love that sacrifices and s**uffers for the beloved.

What do people today think when they hear the word **“Christian”?** What should **“Ch**ristian” mean to people? Today the reaction may be different from years ago.

In some circles the name **“Ch**ristin” evokes impressions of intolerance, politicized and power hungry religion, oppressive, absence of respect for non-Christians, anti-intellectualism. In some other circles, the name **“Ch**ristian” will indicate someone on whom we can rely to **tell the truth, who treats all people with respect, whose word we can trust, who is concerned with fairness in our world, who lives not by majority opinion but by God’s law, who knows that he or she has a purpose wider than this world.** To everyone, the **name “Christia**n” should mean someone who is trying to follow the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. All of these characteristics should define as His disciples.

The life of Jesus, the magnificent moment when he walked the earth 2000 years ago, died and rose from the dead, wasn’t supposed to be just an inspiring memory. **It was a way of life that was to continue in His followers so that His love would continue to touch** and heal the wo**rld.** **In Todays’ First Reading,** we read about the Apostles visiting the First Christian communities, the **“cells of Christ’s’ lov**e” that were being planted in the world of that time. None of these communities in the early Church were perfect. The **Book of Revelat**ion tells us in **Today’s Second Reading** that perfect Jerusalem will come down from Heaven only at the end of History. It will not grow from the earth because our human imperfection remains with us. Still, the **early Christian Communities and par**ishes today are meant to be seedbeds of Christs’ truth and love.

At our best, **we are to be the place of a rebirth of living according to the Gospel truth. We are to be the place for the rebirth of respect for all human life. We are to be seedbed for rebirth of our respect for sexuality, marriage, human dignity and for honesty.** We are to be seedbed for the birth of a new kind of relationship among people based not on power but on respect.

The Christin Community in which we live can be a **great test of our faith**. It is much easier to be charitable to people far way or in other denominations with whom we do not have to deal on daily basis. But the Lord is teaching us that **charity begins at ho**me. The people will be able to spot us as disciples of Jesus by the love we have for each other. If we are trying to love each other as Christ loves us, we are giving powerful witness to our world

Our trying to love **Christ as Christ did is the Easter fire we bring to our family, our friends, our parish and our fellow-workers**. Our Christianity is not just for our websites but for our work sites. For people today, the strongest proof **that Christ is truly risen is not found in any book but in how those** who claim to be His followers are living.

To love as **Christ did is impossible for any human being by himself or herself.** Because it far beyond the capacity of our fallen nature. It is only through God’s grace that we can love **with a radical-Christ like love- It requires the very presence of Christ within. And Jesus offers that help through the Holy Spirit**. It is only through grace that we are empowered to love others as Jesus loves us. Does the Easter fire still burn among us? **Are we willing to be carriers of that fire?**

Since today we recognize our **graduates for the year 2025 from schools and colleges. Dear** young men and women, we live in a society where explosive information at all levels is transmitted without wisdom or critical sense, the task for forming and molding the future Catholic men and women remains as important as ever. You are called to nurture and continue to pursue the desire for truth, goodness and beauty that lies in the heart of every individual so that you may learn how to love life and open to the fullness of life, the true and full meaning of human flourishing. When you are weaponized with the armor of the Gospel values- and carve out your future, I am sure, you will succeed in your life, and you will be able to provide hope and strength to millions around you for facing wisely the challenges of the present time. All the best, May God Bless you…