

The witness of Love 5-19-19

God's word invites us this Sunday to reflect on our fundamental mission: the charge to love one another. This is the mission we have received from the risen Lord. The Church is sent to show God's love to the world. Christianity is a religion of love. In the heart of our religion is a God who loved the world so much that he sent his only begotten son to redeem it. Our church is called to be a witness of that love. Love grows and perfect love casts out every fear.

Our first reading reminds us of how the early disciples of Jesus consciously planted the seeds of love and nurtured it to bear the fruits of love. Paul was stoned and dragged from Lystra, he was thought to be dead, but he got up again and was willing to move on to the next town. Paul and Barnabas came back to the same place where they were mistreated to encourage them and to urge them to bear their share of hardships to enter the kingdom of heaven.

In the second reading, John paints for us a vision of the Church. John saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming out of heaven from God, adorned like a bride for her groom. This is an imagery that describes the Church. The Church is the holy city, the new Jerusalem. It is God's dwelling on earth. It is where our God wipes away our tears and turns our sadness into joy. It is the place where God's glory abides and where love reigns.

The task before us is laid out for us in the gospel. We are called to abide in love. This is how we show that we are his followers. The way we become the holy city of God, a place of God's dwelling on earth is to love like Christ. All will know that we are Christians by our love. Pope Francis describes the Church as a field hospital, our greatest task is to show love to all and to help extend salvation to all.

Let's bear in mind that we are going to be judged by how much we have loved. It's the reason we need to work hard everyday and love like Jesus loved.

Praised be Jesus Christ...Now and forever!

Fr. Francis Odoom