SIXTH SUNDAY YEAR A – HOMILY

HOW GOOD, HOW DELIGHTFUL IT IS TO ABIDE THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD!

I welcome you, my dear brothers and sisters to this Sunday. I would like to thank God for His goodness to us. He has blessed us with this day on which we have come to receive His divine message.

In the first place, I would like to introduce myself to you. I am Fr. Francis Nsubuga, a priest from Uganda, the country which is found in Africa. It is in East Africa and a landlocked country. It is on the equator, a line which divides the World on 0 degrees. Uganda is somehow a beautiful country but not better than the US! It has around 54 tribes, each with a particular language. We have two seasons a year, wet and dry seasons. We have almost a green environment since we are in a tropical climate. We have different types of birds which are domestic and wild, and animals too. Animals like monkeys, gorillas, giraffes, hippos, deer, antelope, buffaloes, crocodiles, and many other animals.

I am a Muganda by tribe and I speak Luganda as my first language. I am from Buganda Kingdom, belonging to a lung fish clan. I am from a family of 27 children, boys and girls and I am the 8th child. My parents are John Nsubuga and Annet Nakijoba. Both are deceased. My family is a Catholic one right from our grandparents. God planted his seed of priesthood into me when I was still young, and his call became real in 2009 when I became a priest. I have a lot to tell you about myself if we happen to have enough time. Let us go to the Word of God.

Today, my dear brothers and sisters, our Lord Jesus Christ is inviting us to observe the commandments of God because they are important for our spiritual growth, they help us to establish a good friendship between us and Him and our neighbor.

He said he has never come to abolish the law of the prophet but to fulfill. He was talking about the ten commandments given to Moses by God on Mt. Sinai. These laws were given to the Israelites in order to be guided, to be protected from any danger.

Because of the significance of those ten words of God and people could think it is too much and can easily forget them, Jesus summarized them into two commandments for us to remember them well.

The first greatest commandment according to Jesus’ summary is, to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. And the second one is to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. The first three commandments are about God Himself and the seven other commandments are about us.

If people could jealously regard the commandments of God, no other laws could be needed to govern the nations. We need to love the law of God because the spirit of God's law is love. It is not for any personal gain as some laws of the nations are but for our own good, for us to be a better version of our lives, for the common good. Whoever obeys these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven. Parents and teachers are encouraged to talk about the commandments of God almost every moment to their children.

How good, how delightful it is for all of us to abide by the commandments of God!