19th May 2019 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR....

It is perhaps easier to love people who are far away. It is not always easy to love those who are close to us and live close with us. It is easier to give a couple of dollars away to relieve pain and famine in Congo, Sudan or some other remote country than to relieve the pain of loneliness of someone living next door. It is easy to love at a distance, but not so easy to love at close quarters.

But does Christ really expect me to love the person next door who never stops gossiping? That strange person I have to work beside every day? The unattractive secretary or receptionist who never smiles, or that shouting party member, or that other person driving his car who cuts me off and goes by....

But then, we may think, only they were in some other far away foreign land and they needed my help I would be moved with compassion and reach out to them. But they are right on my doorstep, and sometimes in my face....

Yes, these are the people Christ asks us to love.

Lord Jesus Christ said to your disciples: 'A new commandment I give you: love one another as I have loved you. Everybody will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.'

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

FORMED

Often referred to as the "Netflix for Catholics", FORMED by the Augustine Institute provides convenient mobile access to thousands of video-based study programs, movies, documentaries, audio talks, audiobooks and even eBooks on Demand. Let these materials facilitate your spiritual journey as you try to more fully understand, live and share your Catholic Faith. We invite you to discover your journey of faith at your own pace and at your leisure. Don't have a FORMED account yet? Enter the URL SainJohnEvangelist.Formed.org, and follow the simple instructions on the website and register with your name, your e-mail and create your own password in order that you may be able to have your own personal access to the website.

FLORES DE MAYO...The Filipino Pastoral Council (FPC) invites everyone to join in their Flores de Mayo celebration. Floral offering and the crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary will take place on Saturday, May 25th following the 4:30 pm mass. Flowers will be distributed by the FORMED PRIOR to the mass. All are invited to come.

Parish Family Picture Directory

Continuing with our Quasquicentennial celebration, we will be doing a new family pictorial directory and we hope every family will be in it. Lifetouch will be at the parish doing family portraits for six days, July 11th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 20th & 21st. Make plans now to schedule your appointment on our first sign-up weekend after all Masses on June 1st & 2nd. Each participating family will receive a free 8" x 10" portrait and a free copy of the directory when it is finished. There is no charge and you are not obligated to purchase more pictures and the parish gets no money from your purchases.

We hope you’ll join us because our directory won’t be complete without YOU!

HOW DO WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

Jesus says, “Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another.” So how do we love one another, especially those who have hurt us deeply, and those who we despise because of their wrong sense of values and the wrong things that they do to others? While loving the people who show you love is easy, we also have to love all the others with no exceptions. First we have to learn how to forgive. We can never have the capacity to love until we recognize ourselves as sinners and forgive others, just as in the parable of the servant who was forgiven by his master. By forgiving, we don’t necessarily mean forgiving how we got hurt. If a person hurts us deeply, then we should forgive them. That's where the part of not forgetting comes along. Not forgetting doesn't mean we keep tabs of one another's wrongdoings in such a way that ill feelings are stored in each incident. There shouldn’t be any ill feeling left once you forgive a person. You are just remembering the way you got hurt so that you can avoid getting hurt in the future, and not for any other reason. We have no control over emotions, but we have control over our actions, such as acting in love. When Jesus preached to us about loving one another, He didn't mean through our emotions, but through our thoughts, actions and gestures. It is difficult for most of us to love the people who hurt us because we tend to rely on our emotions when we love rather than being committed to love unconditionally, like Jesus. Loving others also involves being bold and giving others to His ways. When we see a person do something wrong, we should take the opportunity to encourage the person to do the right thing, for we don’t want to have a lost brother or sister in Christ, as in a lost sheep among the flock as Jesus pointed out. When we act on love towards the people who we don’t feel we should love or pay attention to, it feels fake at first, but as we do it constantly, God provides us the tools we need so that eventually it becomes a natural feeling. Once we have God’s graces, we become at peace with everything in everything that we do.

SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is for Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities supports families struggling with homelessness; cares for aging adults and adults with disabilities; welcomes immigrants and refugees with love and compassion; and offers youth a safe place to learn a grow. Thank you for your generous support to this great cause.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

May 6th - May 12th, 2019

Tuesday's Spec. Coll. ........ $ 108.00
Tues. On-line giving........... $ 5.00
Weekend Offering........... $ 2,660.64
Weekend On-line giving..... $ 315.00

AAA ......................... $ 1,343.00
AAA On-line giving......... $ 105.00

Why a 'New Commandment'?...In Christ’s new command, the significant words are ‘as I have loved you.’ Christ’s command to love ‘as I have loved you’ is the “new commandment.” This depth of love takes the Christian to a whole new way of expressing love for others. The love that Christ had and continues to have for His followers is infinitely more profound.