On this 6th Sunday of Easter, the Lord Jesus challenges us to prove the genuineness of our love for him by living as he has taught us. Just as he has proven his love for us by dying for our salvation, so should we show our love for him by living for him. Then will we enjoy the abundance of the Father’s love.

By ourselves we are not capable of giving such a radical response, for we are weak and inconstant. We need the help of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of our Blessed Mother. Jesus himself has provided both helps for us. He gave us Mary as our mother while he was in agony on the Cross, and the Holy Spirit on the very day of his resurrection. In the power of these two great Advocates, we proceed in our effort to make of our lives a response of love to the Lord Jesus.
**Liturgical Texts**

**Psalm of Thanksgiving**

Ps 66

*R.* The victorious battle against the evil spirits initiated by Jesus continues through the deacon Philip and the Apostles, in the power of the Holy Spirit. He is also our best Ally as we carry on the same struggle.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 66

*R.* – A proclamation from the Acts of the Apostles

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them.

With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing. For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured. There was great joy in that city.

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord!

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**2nd Reading**

1 Pt 3:15-18

Today St. Peter reminds us that, as true followers of Christ, we should not suffer from any complex of inferiority. Rather, we should strive to conquer the hearts of the non-believers through the power of our good example and the kindness of our words.

*R.* – A proclamation from the First Letter of Peter

Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for our salvation. He was put to death, but in his flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord!

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Gospel**

Jn 14:15-21

In his Farewell Discourse Jesus shows himself both generous and demanding. These are the two signs of genuine friendship that lead to communion with him and the Father, thanks to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

“Whoever loves me will keep my word,” says the Lord, “and my Father will love him and we will come to him.”

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Profession of Faith**

(Nicene Creed)

**All** – I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man. * For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P – We are grateful to the Lord for his promise of the Spirit and the assurance that he will not leave us orphaned. With persevering trust in him who is the “God-with-us,” let us direct our petitions to him, as we say:

All – Lord, you are our hope and our strength!

C – That the whole Catholic Church, God’s family on earth, may constantly enjoy the presence of Jesus, communion with the Father, and the guidance of the Spirit, let us pray!  

R.

P – That the Holy Father and all our religious leaders may continue to edify us with their example, strengthen us with their prayers, and lead us in the power of the Spirit, let us pray!  

C – That our civil leaders may uphold the rule of law and promote with special concern the good of all “small people,” particularly the homeless, the landless, and the unemployed, let us pray!  

C – That Israelis and Palestinians may learn to live in harmonious collaboration in the land that has already seen too much bloodshed, hatred, and destruction of lives, let us pray!  

R.

C – That all of us may hear and follow God’s commandments, motivated by love for Him and the desire to please Him, let us pray!  

R.

C – Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions.  

Pause

C – Let us pray!  

R.

P – Lord Jesus, you are the source of our hope and salvation. Continue to prepare our hearts to receive your Spirit of Holiness, even as we do our best to show our love for you through the fulfillment of our daily duties. You who live and reign for ever and ever!

All – Amen!

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

P – Pray, brethren . . .  

All – May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P – May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.  

Through Christ our Lord.

All – Amen!

Preface of Easter II

P – The Lord be with you!  

All – And with your spirit!

P – Lift up your hearts!

All – We lift them up to the Lord!

P – Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All – It is right and just!

P – It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

Through him the children of light rise to eternal life and the halls of the heavenly Kingdom are thrown open to the faithful; for his Death is our ransom from death, and in his rising the life of all has risen.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:  

All – Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P – The mystery of faith!

All – We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!

Communion Rite

All – Our Father . . .

P – Deliver us, Lord . . .

All – For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All – Lamb of God . . .

Communion

P – Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All – Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.
Prayer after Communion

P  – Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.
All – Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES

P  – The Lord be with you.
All – And with your spirit!

P  – Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. (Pause) May God, the all-powerful Father, grant you the grace to live as authentic disciples of His Son.
All – Amen!

P  – May God, the all-loving Son, make you experience his constant presence as you strive to fulfill your duties.
All – Amen!

P  – May God, the all-Holy Spirit, fill you with His grace, strength, and consolation.
All – Amen!

All – Amen!

P  – Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!
All – Thanks be to God!

THE TEST AND FRUIT OF TRUE LOVE

Profession of our faith and our love for Christ in words is good and needed. But along with the words – and even more important than them – is our profession of faith and love for him through our lives.

Actions speak louder than words. The world is filled with crowd-drawing speakers and charismatic preachers, but it is always in dire need of real, consistent Christians. For most of us, an authentic Christian life is the only profession of love for Christ we can offer, and the only one which most people are inclined to accept. The testing ground of our love for Christ is not the pulpit, nor the microphone of a Radio or TV station. It is our life – the way we relate to God and respond to the needs of those around us or far away . . . .

To respond to Christ’s love for us throughout our life, in constant faithfulness (and not just occasionally!), is a daunting task. And we are weak. We often falter and fall! Jesus knew it, and that is why he promised his disciples (and us) that he would not leave them/us orphaned (see Jn 14:18). He promised to stay with us to the very end to guide and support us. (See Mt 28:20.)

Jesus’ presence is made operative in our existence through the action of the Spirit, the supreme Gift of the Risen Lord. Life may get hard for us. We may be misunderstood or even persecuted because of our faithfulness to God. This already happened to Jesus. It will surely happen to us if we remain faithful to him. Then it will be helpful to remember the saying of Peter: “It is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil” (1 Pt 3:17).

Occasional failures may occur, but a real disciple keeps rising and struggling, in spite of all difficulties from within and from without. In the midst of all difficulties we should keep in mind Jesus’ wonderful promise: “Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him . . . and we will come to him and make our dwelling place with him” (Jn 14:21.23).

These are words worth remembering and believing. Their fulfillment will make our life a lasting success.

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Tel. Nos. 894-5401; 894-5402; 892-2169 • Telefax: 894-5241 • Website: www.wordandlife.org • E-mail: marketing@wordandlife.org, wordandlifepublications@gmail.com • FB: Word & Life Publications
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