

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, 2008

“Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, being lovers of the brotherhood ... for unto this are ye called.”
(Peter 3:8)

Both the Epistle and Gospel today strongly inculcate the duty of love of one another. We are responsible before God for each and every failure of charity towards our brethren, even in our most secret thoughts. We must return good for evil and take every opportunity of acting as



peacemakers, suffering for the sake of justice if need be; God is Love; He created us out of love, and for love; “He is our peace.” From His Cross and from the Altar it comes to us, the sign of His love and forgiveness. The late Pope John Paul II, speaking to world youth, said:

“Those who love are not calculating, they do not seek their own gain. They work quietly and without charge for their brethren, knowing that every person, whoever he or she may be, has infinite value. In Christ no one is inferior and no one is superior. All are members of the same body, seeking one another’s happiness and wishing to build a world which embraces everyone ... The new spirit is to be gentle, generous, simple, and above all sincere. To avoid being arrogant, censorious or self-seeking. The disciples of the new Kingdom must seek happiness even in the midst of poverty, deprivation and oppression ... Just as the law revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai, so in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the new Lawgiver, offers to all mankind a new way of life, a charter of Christian life.”

Sister Lucia of Fatima, in her book *Calls from the Message of Fatima*:

“The fourth Call of the Message — I love You. If only I were a Seraphim to tell you what love really is. ‘God is Love’, St John the Apostle tells us, and as such He loves with an eternal love — in other words, from all eternity. We see this eternal presence of ours to God and in God foretold in a text of Sacred Scripture which refers directly to divine Wisdom — which was of course prior to creation as it is spread throughout creation — but which Holy Church has no difficulty in applying to Our Lady.

*'The Lord created me at the beginning of His work, the first of His acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water, Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth; before He had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. When He established the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He made firm the skies above, when He established the fountains of the deep, when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress His command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him.'*¹

"There can be no doubt that, of all creatures, Our Lady is the one who has been most loved by God. Nevertheless, from all eternity, we have all been equally present in the mind of God, and part of His creative design. Moreover, He created all other things for love of each one of us, because we have always been present to Him and loved by Him. We have an eternal debt of love to pay to God, a debt which can only be repaid as the centuries follow one another, though it can never be fully repaid because the love of God came first, and continually increases in intensity. Hence, no one and nothing is as deserving as God is of a return of our love."

The Church gives us this month of June to ponder on the love and mercy of our Saviour which comes to us from the Cross and from the Altar, especially during Holy Mass. Let us ask our Blessed Mother, through her Immaculate Heart to obtain for us the grace of loving God always and everywhere. Remember, that as we have always been in the mind of God so that for each of us, the day of our exit from this life was fixed for us before we were born. Then let us be most faithful to our daily Rosary, and as we meditate on the mysteries of our Saviour's life, may we make each prayer a pure act of love from the Apostles' Creed to the last Amen.

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¹ Prov. 8:22-30