



6th SUNDAY of EASTER **YEAR B – May 6, 2018**

All the readings today speak to us about the kind of love that Jesus asks of us. Just as they did last weekend.

The first reading today (Acts 10:25-26, 14-48) reminds us that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles as well as the Jews. There were people in the early Church who believed that Jesus came into the world only for the chosen people. That is not true. Not long ago there were some

Catholics who believed that outside the Catholic Church there is no salvation. That is not true. God's love is not confined to one race or one geographic area. God's love is available to all.

The first revelation of God is his creation. The second revelation of God is Sacred Scripture. Creation of our universe happened 4.6 billion years ago. The big bang theory was proposed by a Catholic priest. He was not denying the existence of God. Science can tell us when the big bang happened, but it can't tell us who lit the match. When it comes to that question, we walk by faith, not by sight. What do you believe?

St. John in the second reading (1 John 4:7-10) reminds us that God so loved the world that he sent his own son to us so that we might have life through him. In one sense, we are redeemed by Jesus not because of the cross but despite the cross. We are redeemed because God loves us – that includes the Father above us, the Son beside us and the Holy Spirit within us. Part of the mystery of redemption is that the son of God continued to love us even on the cross. He loves us still.

In the Gospel (John 15:9-17), Jesus tells us to love one another the way he loves us. That doesn't mean we have to die for our faith as he did, but it does mean we have to live it, the way he did. Recall his words, "I AM THE WAY." What do you think he means. \?

It's that time of the year when we have an opportunity to show our love for our brothers and sisters who are in need through our prayers and contributions to the Bishop's annual appeal. It's just one "WAY" to show our love for others. It is not the only way, but it is one important way.

Our parish goal this year is \$142,000 dollars. We can reach that goal with your help and together we can help a lot of people. For those of you who have already made a pledge or donation, let me take this opportunity to thank you. Someone once said, "The whole purpose of life on earth is to help each other." That's a very good summary of our Lord's sermon on the Mountain (Matthew 5).

If we live our Lord's WAY and believe our Lord's TRUTH, we can hope to live our Lord's LIFE. His words in the Gospel today say it all, "Love each other!" It's not a suggestion, it's a command. Recall the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the Gospel every day and only if you have to, use words." That's our Lord's WAY.

