

5 Easter '16

Love one another as I have loved you

Love trusts, it sets free, it does not try to control, possess and dominate

(I) How do we love one another?

(A) Not in ways described last week

(1) remember them?

(B) Rohr:

“Structural, institutional sin is accepted as good on the corporate or national level. Large organizations, including the Church and governments, get away with it and are even applauded for killing (war), greed, vanity, pride, and ambition. Yet individuals are condemned for committing these same sins. Such a convenient split will never create free people or peaceful nations.”

(C) Delio:

“We are evolving into a new world community, a new consciousness of being America that includes religious and ethnic pluralism and a global economy; we are participants in a global community. The sooner we can develop new political structures that support the evolution of global humanity, the more zest for life we will have, kindling new energy and creating a more unified world.”

(IV) Pope Francis describes how we love one another as Christ is loving us in his: “*Amoris Laetitia*”:

(A) Clergy

“Clergy must avoid a ‘cold bureaucratic morality’ and make room for the consciences of the faithful. We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them.

“A pastor cannot feel that it is enough simply to apply moral laws to those living in ‘irregular’ situations, as if they were stones to throw at people’s lives. We must stop putting so many conditions on mercy that we empty it of its concrete meaning and real significance. That is the worst way of watering down the Gospel.

“We must allow Catholics to be able to grow into greater adherence and understanding of church teaching. I am not speaking only of the divorced and remarried, but of everyone, in whatever situation they find themselves.

“One cannot judge a person based on how their situations measure up to any general norm. Individual conscience needs to be better incorporated in certain situations which do not objectively embody our understanding of marriage.

(B) Dignity of women

"I would like to stress that, even though significant advances have been made in the recognition of women's rights and their participation in public life, in some countries much remains to be done to promote these rights.

"The equal dignity of men and women makes us rejoice to see old forms of discrimination disappear

"We must see in the women's movement the working of the Spirit for a clearer recognition of the dignity and rights of women.

(C) Married life

"Married couples joined by love speak well of each other; they try to show their spouse's good side, not their weakness and faults. Love trusts, it sets free, it does not try to control, possess and dominate everything."

"Take time, quality time, listening patiently and attentively to everything the other person wants to say. It requires the self-discipline of not speaking until the time is right. Develop the habit of giving real importance to the other person. This means appreciating them and recognizing their right to exist, to think as they do and to be happy. Never downplay what they say or think, even if you need to express your own point of view.

"Keep an open mind. Don't get bogged down in your own limited ideas and opinions, but be prepared to change or expand them. The combination of two different ways of thinking can lead to a synthesis that enriches both.

(D) Families

"The Lord's presence dwells in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes, The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures. In that variety of gifts and encounters which deepen communion, God has his dwelling place.

"Life as a couple is a daily sharing in God's creative work, and each person is for the other a constant challenge from the Holy Spirit. The two are thus mutual reflections of that divine love which comforts with a word, a look, a helping hand, a caress, an embrace.

"All of us are called to keep striving towards something greater than ourselves and our families, and every family must feel this constant impulse. Let us make this journey as families, let us keep walking together. What we have been promised is greater than we can imagine. May we never lose heart because of our limitations, or ever stop seeking that fullness of love and communion which God holds out before us."

- (V) “Love one another as I have loved you”
- (A) We are not loving one another as Christ is loving us when our politic beliefs, economic practices and social attitudes blame and project our negativity and indifference on others
 - (B) But we are loving one another as Christ is loving us when we *“keep striving towards something greater, when we never lose heart because of our limitations, or ever stop seeking that fullness of God’s love and communion for ourselves, our families, our communities, our church, and for every country throughout the world.”*

Love trusts, it sets free, it does not try to control, possess and dominate

“This is loving one another as Christ is loving us”