SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B; HOMILY HIGHLIGHTS

READINGS; 1st Acts 10: 25…48, 2nd 1 Jn 4: 7-10, Gospel Jn. 15: 9-17

“This I command you: love one another”

Introduction; Jesus has taken enough time to speak to the disciples after the last supper. He takes the same time to speak to us, knowing fully that soon and very soon they will not have Him again. This is last will to those whom he loved. The final words before He ascends to heaven. The summary of this farewell speech is LOVE for one another. If you love each other even other people will know that you are my disciples. We are urged to do the same, and do it with sincerity and truth in our hearts.

Reflection; “the less we have, the more we give. Seems absurd, but it’s the logic of love.” (Mother Teresa). True love causes pain, Jesus, in order to give us the proof of His love, died on the cross. A mother, in order to give birth to her baby, has to suffer. If you really love one another, you will not be able to avoid making sacrifices. True love is free of conditions and prejudices. The one who loves must be begotten of God, and can love until it hurts. Jesus says; “I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete” (Vs. 11). In here we refer to the joy that comes from union with God, from living in his presence, because living in his presence fills us with joy.

When we speak of joy in this context, we should be categorical as to what we mean by joy; it is not loud laughter or noise we make in pretense, true joy and happiness comes from the heart. It is that inner peace, which shows itself in our eyes, on our faces, in our attitudes, in our gestures, in our promptness, in our attentiveness towards the needy, in listening to others and so forth. Love is a gift that we receive freely from God and we should be able and ready to give it freely.

God has created us so that we can do small things with great love. I believe in that great love that comes from our heart, which then should start at home; with our families, our neighbors across the street, those right next door, and finally extend to everyone. Jesus announced to us the criteria of the final judgement of our lives: we will be judged based on Love. On how much live we have shared with the needy, through whom God identifies Himself with: whatever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did unto me (Math. 25: 40).

Let us pray on this Sunday that we may become true children of God by loving one another in deed and truth. When we love one another we can be able to freely forgive them, pray for them, speak well about them, share their joys and sorrows, sacrifice for them. When we do this we are responding to the love of God to us, it is Him who first loved us and chose us that we may bear fruits, fruits that will last to eternal life. Amen