Fifth Sunday of Easter — May 18, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Little children tire of their parents' telling them what to do and what not to do. To them the list seems endless. “Do your homework. Don' bite your nails. Turn off the TV. Get to bed. Wake up. Eat your breakfast. Don't be late for school.” Jesus by contrast is satisfied to sum up all he wants to tell us in a single commandment. “Love one another.”

The setting of this weekend's Gospel is the Last Supper. It was the night before Jesus was to die. He had promised to give the Holy Spirit to instruct and guide the Church after his Ascension into heaven., but at this moment of his final meeting with the apostles before his death he was eager to tell them what was close to his heart. He did so in but a few words. “Love one another.” Not only must we never underestimate the importance of this commandment; we must never underestimate its demands.

These days some Catholics think that the Church has gone soft or lax. They lament the fact that the practice of fasting and abstinence has been lessened both in its frequency and its severity. They say there is too much talk about mercy and not enough about penance. They miss the “fire and brimstone” approach to preaching. They judge that the Church is lax about allowing frequent communion. They seem to be of the opinion that the “good old days” meant it was a challenge to be a good Catholic.

The truth is that some of the external practices were easy to comply with in comparison with the command of Jesus. When we face what his commandment entails, we see that it is far from easy, especially when we understand what Jesus meant when he declared that his commandment is new. In what way is it new? After all, the Old Testament demanded love for others. What is new is that Jesus is the model and the measure of our love. That is what he meant when he added, “Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other.” That love is truly great.

It was this commandment of love which inspired the preachers of the early Church, like St. Paul and Barnabas whom we heard about in the First Reading this weekend, to travel great distances under difficult circumstances to proclaim the good news. It was love which made their hearers accept the faith and persevere in it so that the Church spread throughout the world. It was love which moved the martyrs to give up their lives. It was love which inspired the saints to serve others unselfishly without hope of gain. And it is this same love for each other which will make us good Catholics today.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**May 20**	**11:00AM**
Theo Jacob (birthday)		
Wed.	**May 21**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**May 22**	**11:00AM**
Christina Quiapo †		Ed & Mae
Fri.	**May 23**	**11:00AM**
Leopoldo B. Barrogo †		Helen
Sat.	**May 24**	**4:30PM**
William Michael Banaban †		Cris & Evelyn
Sun.	**May 25**	**9:00AM**
Brayden Bañaga (birthday)		Lola
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

† †††††††