

6th Sunday of Easter -

An old couple was sitting by the fireside. He looked over at his wife, had a romantic thought, and said, "After fifty years, I've found you tried and true." The wife's hearing wasn't very good, so she said, "What?" He repeated, "After fifty years, I've found you tried and true."

"After fifty years, I'm tired of you too," she replied.

Today's Gospel reading comes from the middle of Jesus' so-called "Farewell Discourse," a lengthy section running from chapters 14 thru 17. It is the heart-to-heart, after-dinner "table-talk" of Jesus with His disciples. Fundamentally, the first half of chapter 15 is about love: the love of God for Jesus, the love of Jesus for His disciples, and the love of the disciples for Jesus. Verse 9 declares that there is no distinguishing difference between the love of the Father for the Son and that which the Son has for His chosen disciples. But, even though this love is steadfast and sure, it is also a love that may be lost. Thus, Jesus urges His disciples to "abide" or "remain" in His love. The "condition" of this unconditional love is spelled out in verse 10 – *"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love."* The disciples must receive, respond to, Jesus' love by keeping His commandments if they are to be able to continue receiving Jesus' love. There is both respect and freedom for the disciples' chosen actions implicit in this design. But Jesus next reminds His followers that He, too, has been free to act in obedience or disobedience to His Father's commandments, and He has offered Himself as a model of obedience and abiding love. Indeed, the "joy" that Jesus goes on to speak of is the joy that He knows as a result of His absolute obedience to the Father, and the perfect unity they share. Thus, Jesus urges His disciples to choose obedience and to experience His abiding love so that they may also experience this kind of total joy.

As we go thru our activities today, and this coming week, let us be willing to cultivate an abiding and loving friendship with Jesus. What does this mean? The qualities we normally expect from our friends are trust, faithfulness, equality, forgiveness, joy, and sacrifice. Jesus offers us all these qualities in our friendship with Him. We can reciprocate these qualities that He shares with us by returning the favor- by being trusting of Him; by being faithful to Him in doing His will; by being proud of the fact that Jesus considers us His friends – thus making us equals to Him, and let's lead lives worthy of our unique status as a friend; by being forgiving of others just as He is with us; by being people who live the joy of our salvation – "Alleluia-people" - rather than walking around with a frown on our faces; and by sacrificing our time and our lives for those in need around us – just as He did for us.

Jesus calls us to be persons for others. Jesus demonstrated the love of God, His Father, has for us by living for us and dying for us. All thru the Gospel stories we see how Jesus took the time to be present for and tend

to the needs of those around Him – not just His fellow country-men, but even the outsiders, the outcasts, the sinners. His love was not limited to a select few. His love was for everyone – and He continued to live, even on the cross. The most effective way of communicating God's love to others is by treating everyone as a friend, giving each the respect he or she deserves as a human being and as a creation of God. Let's be reminded of the Golden Rule 'Do unto others as you would want done to you'. I sometimes take the liberty of adding: 'Don't do to others what you wouldn't done to you; don't speak about others what you would not want said about you.' (I think we get the message of what the Golden Rule is).

Let's never get tired of one another, but let's always allow ourselves to be invigorated by the Holy Spirit so that we can live joyful lives for one another.

Let us pray for the Conversion of the World
& for Peace

D L A – My personal thanks to all who have made the sacrifice to make a pledge and donate to this year's Diocesan Lenten Appeal. The theme of this year's Appeal is *Be the Light*, and during the Easter Season, the Paschal Candle reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world and our Light. Thank you for your dedication and being a Light to others by your generosity. Your moneys help both the Diocesan and our local Parish with the various ministries and programs, as well as with necessary physical plant improvements. If you have not yet made a pledge, I ask that you prayerfully consider it. Whatever amount you are able to contribute helps with proclaiming the Gospel Message. Thank you, again, and God Bless!

Father Dave

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION
6TH SUN OF EASTER YR-B,
JOHN 15, 9-17

To all mothers...thank you very much you decided to give birth and allowed us to experience how beautiful life is despite the varying circumstances ...long live dear mothers...HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!

12 *This is my commandment: love one another as I love you*

17 *This I command you: love one another.*

THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT...THIS I COMMAND YOU

Somebody (God, government, parents, school, tradition or culture) who has power over you is asking you to do something. Remember this, the only thing that 'somebody' wants from you is obedience. *This obedience would eventually lead to the fulfillment of that commandment.*

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

What is being commanded? TO LOVE ANOTHER.

1. Out of love, God bequeathed on us His image and likeness (creation)
2. Out of love, God gave His only Son (Jn. 3, 16---for our salvation)
3. Out of love, the apostles continued 'Do this in memory of me.' (Eucharist)

AS I LOVE YOU

In the act of loving, it is not enough that we love. ***Our love should be in deed and in truth (1 Jn. 3, 18).*** Most importantly, it should have a canon---***AS I LOVE YOU---*** ***AS JESUS LOVES US is the canon*** that we need to observe. Not as the world loves us but AS JESUS LOVES US.

In putting to reality the commandment of love...we remember, '***...I remain in you (Jn. 15, 4).***'

