

**May 15, 2022**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Acts 14:21-27**  
**Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13**  
**Rev 21:1-5a**  
**Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35**

## **LOVE ONE ANOTHER!**

Kindly look at the person next to you – to your left and to your right. **Can you love that person without conditions/measures?** Perhaps, you can love the person especially if he/she is your husband/wife, or son/daughter, or a friend. **What about the person you don't get along with or the one that hurt you? How about the person you hate in this parish?** Perhaps, all of us will agree that loving such person is a different story. Maybe we will say: **"Father, I will not do that. I am not crazy!"** (using the word in Hawaiian: "I am not 'lolo'.")

**"Love one another."** our Lord Jesus says. He did not say, **"Love only those who love you."** He did not say, **"Stop loving those who hurt you."** He did not say, **"Love only those who are in your group."** In the Gospel of Matthew (5:43-44) our Lord Jesus says: "You have heard that it was said, **"You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."**

The call of our Lord Jesus to 'love one another' goes beyond feelings/emotions. It is more of willingness to love. His call to love, therefore, transcends human standards. His call to love is a call to share in his divinity. His call to love is a call towards 'new way of loving' destroying the 'old way.' His call to love is a call towards creating a 'new society' wherein revenge or getting even is being trampled upon. His call to love is a call to be 'divine' in the world we live in.

**"Love one another."** our Lord Jesus says. This is not a request. This is a command. Therefore, it is not optional for his disciples. This is mandatory. Just as he mandated his first disciples, we too are called to do the same. When we love like our Lord Jesus, people will know that we are truly his disciples/stewards.

As we continue our Mass, let us ask our Lord Jesus to give us the grace to respond graciously to his command. Let us ask him for the grace to love beyond feelings. Let us ask him to help us to love like him. Let us ask him for the grace to embrace his mandate to 'love one another' with urgency.

God bless our Easter journey!