

Easter 6A 2015

God is Love

In today's second reading, St. John makes a simple but profound statement: God is love. He does not say that *love* is God; for if he said that we might mistake our notion of love for God. Rather, he says that *God* is love. God is the perfect expression of love. God is the one who loves us. God shows us the deepest meaning of love by giving us his own Son for salvation. And so to know God is to know true and authentic love—the unselfish love that the Son of God manifested on the cross. And to know such love is to know God.

Indeed, St. John goes so far as to say that everyone who loves is begotten by God, and whoever is without love does not know God because God is love.

There is a great confusion about God today—I suppose there has always been a great confusion about God. For some, God exists but is totally irrelevant to their lives and the life of the world. Others think of God in a small and limited way. They mistakenly think of God as someone who shows favoritism to certain people and is unconcerned with others. For others, God is no longer necessary. There is no God; there can be no God.

But Jesus challenge our mistaken ideas of God. He tells us that God so loved the world that God sent his beloved Son not to condemn but to save world. Everything Jesus says shows us God's love for the world. For those who believe in

Jesus there is no other way to God than through his Son Jesus Christ. For it is in Jesus Christ that we see the perfect expression of God's love.

St. John challenges us to understand love in terms of God. He proclaims that God is love because God never ceases to love us. And so to know true and authentic love is to know something of God.

All of us learn something of God's love from our parents, and on this day I think especially of our mothers. Their unconditional love, their impartial love, their giving of self is a reflection of God's own love. This is why the vocation of motherhood is so important. Through their love for their children and families, mothers share in the gift of God's own love. And so they are our first and best teachers of God's love. They give us our first glimpse of the perfect love of God.

The vocation of motherhood has changed in many ways throughout the years, and today mothers exercise that vocation in new and creative ways. But the heart of their vocation remains the same: to extend the love of God to their children and family, to live in a selfless way that mirrors the selfless love of God.

It is a joy to congratulate all of the mothers of our parish today. In doing so, I include those women who have not borne children but have exercised the vocation of motherhood in other ways by educating and mentoring countless children. May God bless all of you on this Mother's Day, for it is through you that we begin to understand what St. John means when he says, "God is love."