

Pastor's letter

May 17, 2009

Dear parishioner,

The liturgy of this Sunday is focused on love. Excuse me if I speak again about love, as I have done in the last two letters, but as you know all our faith is based on love.

Jesus says, "Remain in my love!" He asks us to observe the "Commandment of love." I think that if we come to Church, it is because we have this need to fill.

As I mentioned two Sundays ago, people don't generally like to be restricted to an environment where they must respect rules and commandments. To avoid this inference, we'll use the word "discipline".

Every person, be he an athlete, professional, worker, university student, or other, develops a discipline, a schedule, a diet, a rule.

This is the way it should be for our faith. We too need a rule a discipline to reach the objectives that we want to attain. That discipline consists in carrying out gestures of love in the real world.

As I said last Sunday, love is a concept, which is at times ambiguous, at times misused, and depending on circumstances, also manipulated. On one hand, it is used to refer to the couple relationship, to the desire, to the physical attraction, and on the other hand it is used in a fairy tale sense. For example, we see how some television programs encourage people to dream for a short time the sweet illusion of an imaginary tale.

But reality is different. It is hard to love, there are couples in difficulty, people who abandon for love, relationships between parents and children that turn into big conflicts, or people that desire a true love but find themselves alone.

I am referring to the actual world, to those people who demonstrate in thousands of different ways the desire to be loved, but whose desire is never realized.

This is the great human contradiction!

We feel that we are born for something really great and beautiful -the love- yet in this desire we don't always succeed in realizing it fully.

But what does God think about the love? Considering that it is He who invented love. God tells us that love is really the most important experience in the life of the human being.

We are born and we live to learn to love. Our internal being can be filled only by love. Some months ago on a TV channel, I remember seeing our Bishop Frederick Henry being interviewed by a journalist. The question of the journalist was more or less, "Bishop Henry, what would you like people to say or think about you in the future?" Bishop Henry's answer was, "I miss that person!"

To reside in the heart of someone, to be appreciated and esteemed for who we are, to be remembered with love, this is a true need felt by everyone.

We live our life seeking love, with the hope that one-day we can have a heart full of joy.

Do you know something? In my opinion God thinks the same way, and Jesus has come on earth to show us that it is possible. Similarly, in my opinion, another problem lies in our desire to meet others and to journey together on the “Road of Love.”

Love changes people, and perhaps this is the real reason that we often close the doors when facing love.

What if we tried to open ourselves to the true love that comes from God? What would happen to us?

Perhaps we would become braver, perhaps we would not need to make excuses anymore when someone asks for our friendship, perhaps Jesus would make us more agreeable and capable of overcoming obstacles and ugly experiences from our past which live in the depths of our hearts.

At the beginning of this letter I said that we find it hard to love. We feel an enormous desire to love, but the fear that someone could invade our secret places frightens us.

Yet the only way to live true love is to allow people to enter inside of us, to allow people to walk inside our secret garden.

Sometimes I like to observe people, and to see how some of them, generally couples, from their speech, from their gestures, they are not two but one. You too may have noticed how such people, even before they walk or move together, they have already done it in their heart, in unison.

This is love!

Somebody will probably say to me, “Father, but the love of which you speak is the agreement, it is the love that grows and matures among a man and a woman that have been living together for many years!”

Yes, it is true! I have already told you above, this behavior is generally noticed in couples. But, are you sure that this type of agreement is one you would want to have only with your partner, or is it possible to extend it to other people that you know?

True there is the obstacle of fear. The fear to go out of our own comfort zone and habits.

If our hearts won't burn from love for all those that live around us, the world will die from cold.

Peace, Father Luciano