

TRINITY NEWS

Easter V - Four Words for LOVE

The Apostle Paul passed on some tightly-knit words that were treasured in the early Church, giving the polished words we know as I Corinthians 13 his own infusion of the Sacred. He used a word for love called AGAPE and claimed that without it we are like gongs and cymbals clanging in a vacuum. The deepest hole in the universe is an empty mind. Intellectual striving and rational or even irrational effort causes a buzz in our circuits, and that can be so exciting. But the “buzz” needs to be sheathed in a loving intent or it will be as arid as Sahara grains of sand sizzling in the sun. We can achieve so much, and it is immensely worthwhile, but the capacity to give and receive love is more powerful and pervasive. This capacity wisely held together can change situations and perhaps even a whole generation! It connects and sweetens body, mind, and soul.

Agape love is not Eros, sensual love, though it needs such passion. Eros is transparent in some words by Filipino poet Antonio Salvador S. de Veyra: “I turn the corner/ from your house/I carry on my shoulders/ Scent of your hair”; Agape is not Philadelphia, a community of loving friends, though it needs such bonding; it is not Stergein, the bonds of love in a family or community. Home sweet home is at times a fiction, but it is a comforting fiction. When it is real, we are inevitably drawn back to it. Home comforts may sink into parched emotions. None of us can flourish without emotional support. Where there are no gardens creation is diminished. But an emotional desert can appear in a sumptuous apartment and a shanty can become a palace. AGAPE incorporates the best of all these aspects of love in the Greek Language.

Jesus linked loving God and loving humanity in his absolute connection of Deuteronomy 6:4 and Leviticus 19:18. That is, loving God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind and loving our neighbour as we (should) love ourselves. “Mind” is added at Luke 10:27 after the words from Deuteronomy 6:4 that refer to “all your heart, and all your soul, and all your strength. Both of these references begin with “heart”.

John 13:1-35 is the central message from the Upper Room in Jerusalem: “Love one another as I have loved you”. Talk of love is cheap without a clear example to go with the talk. Christian spirituality and Christian morality would fall apart at the seams without the model of Christ: Inner integrity joined to life-giving words and loving deeds.

AGAPE means “a love of deep devotion that is sacrificial in its essence” (Wuest). That is, it reflects the sacrificial love of Christ. When we are left with “nothing to give but love”, as a dignified old woman called Lillith said to me one day at the door of her bare living room in Latin America, then that is Agape Love. She had nothing but a loving heart, because the house was almost empty: a table, several chairs and a bed. “With all your heart”: that’s where we all begin and where we should end. That is, in loving a sometimes despicable humanity and loving God as the concrete Reality for us of the Impossible Dream.

Bishop Arthur Jones

📖 Next week’s readings:

Acts 4:8-18; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:22-22:5; John 14:23-29

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for

Ron Jacob, Beryl Tanner, Ron & Vera Thoburn, JPeter, Ema Duhaylongsod, Aris Paraman, Diana Croyston, Benjie Conzales, Loy Solasco, Merly Quiapos, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Suzanne Jacobson, Ted Whale, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Amy Gonzales, Emerinciana Gatela, Johnny Manning Jr, Richard Kendall, Carrie Angus, Helen Irvine, Augusto Natividad, Susan Dalmas, Reuben Longid, Janet Johnstone, Nikolai Gordevich, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Avelina Collado, Sunny Cabanang.

From Fr. Marc:

The young man from Capul who has been worshipping with us since November will have open-heart surgery to replace a valve (rheumatic heart) soon after May 5. Surgery is being done as charity at Cardinal Santos off Wilson, Greenhills. We need ten units of blood donated to keep costs down. Any type is acceptable; the hospital will swap for correct match from blood bank. If you can donate anytime in this week please contact Fr. Marc at 0917-807-3101. Or simply go to Cardinal Santos and tell them it is for Sunny Cabacang. Then let Fr. Marc know so that I can follow up on it being credited to him.

NOTE:

May 3, Monday.

Non-working holiday.

Office closed.

May 4, Tuesday:

Bible Study, 10am

May 6, Thursday:

Midweek Eucharist, 10am

Bible Study, 7pm

May 7-8 Friday-Saturday:

ECW Diocesan Convention, Parish Hall.

May 9, Sunday:

Regular service 7:30/9:30

Sunday School, 9:15am

CONFIRMATION classes will be offered soon. Those wishing to take part please contact the parish office or Bishop Jones.

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	Proportionate Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P120,270.00	P1,308,093.82	P1,275,000.00	P3,900,000.00
Loose Plate	P23,522.00	P318,373	P307,307.69	P940,000.00