



7th SUNDAY of EASTER **YEAR B – May 13, 2018**

Each of us is chosen by God to be a witness on behalf of Jesus in that part of the world in which we live. There is a social dimension to our calling as well as a personal call to holiness. We are here on earth to help each other, to know, to love and to serve God in our brothers and sisters - and to grow in wisdom, age and grace. We have the capacity to become great saints. We have enough dead saints. What the world needs now is living saints. The world needs you.

The first reading today (Acts 1:15-17, 20A, 20C-26) reminds us that if we refuse the mission that we have from God as Judas did, God will work around us and someone will be chosen to take our place.

The second reading (1 John 4:11-16) speaks to us about love - just as the scriptures did last week and the week before. We are reminded again that God is love and whoever remains in love - remains in God. Learning to love like God, is not easy but it is possible. Who said so, Jesus did.

In the Gospel, (John 17: 11B-19) Jesus says something that we have heard often before, but often, we don't have the time or the inclination to reflect on what he means.

He says, "Father, for *their sake*, I sanctify myself". Jesus was totally committed to the welfare of others. He used his miraculous divine powers to help others rather than to help himself. Whether it was to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, or any one of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy, - it was always for the good of others. He came to serve not to be served. And he fulfilled his mission. He challenges us to fulfill ours. The second part of his words to the Father often get lost in the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Jesus says, "*I sanctify myself*". Personal sanctification is an essential part of being a good Christian. It isn't possible to do the work of our Lord if we ignore half of what he asks us to do.

The social gospel of service to others includes the personal gospel of sanctification. It's not a matter of "either or", it's a matter of "both and". To some church going people, there's always the danger of focusing too much on personal sanctification and ignoring the social gospel of Jesus.

The words of Henry Van Dyke (1852 – 1933) provide some food for thought in that regard:

*"He who seeks for heaven alone to save his soul
May keep the path, he will not reach his goal
While he who walks in love may wander far
But God will bring him where the blessed are".*

To love as Jesus did, means working on personal holiness as well as serving the needs of others. For a few moments in silence, reflect on how your love compares with the love of Jesus.



DON'T FORGET YOUR MOM TODAY!