

Reflections

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Basic Universal Law of Love

The Resurrection of Christ invites us to deepen the presence and action of the Resurrected Lord in our midst. It is not enough for us to affirm that Christ conquered death. We are interested in discovering what this means for our lives.

Catholic doctrine teaches us that we are going to participate in the fruitfulness of the Resurrection in Heaven.

But this new life already begins on this earth. The new man which we are all to become, is already gestating on this earth.

How is it recognized? It is recognized by its new spirit.

A new spirit. And that new spirit is none other than the spirit of love which Christ speaks to us about in the Gospel: “This is my commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you.”

Before the great variety of precepts and laws of the Old Testament, Christ gives us a compendium, a brief summary of all the commandments: LOVE. It is the first commandment, it is the spirit and the end, it is the perfect fulfillment of all laws.

The distinctive characteristic of the disciple of Jesus, of the new man, is love for one’s neighbor. But that love for the neighbor blossoms and is fed unceasingly from a true love for God.

The basic universal law. And if we ask ourselves why love has so much importance in human life, then St. John gives us a clear and brief answer: “God is love.”

This means that the main reason for all divine work is his love. All the rest of the attributes – like justice or omnipotence are motivated through love. The final word is that God does everything THROUGH love, WITH love and FOR love.

He created us through love, and we were sent to the Redeemer: “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son” (Jn 3, 16). Because of love, He sent us the Holy Spirit. All the happenings/events of our life, the final word is that it is HE who wants them, arranges them or permits them for love of us.

Therefore, says Father Joseph Kentenich, founder of the Schoenstatt Movement, love is the Basic Universal Law. And Jesus Christ, who is the love of God incarnate, represents and interprets that basic universal law more perfectly.....because love is in his entire life the great power/force which maintains in incessant movement all the powers/strengths/forces of the body and soul.

For us. When Jesus Christ asks love of us as the distinctive characteristic of those who want to follow Him, it then means: love should also become the great basic law of our life and of our growth. And we always have many opportunities to live that concretely. There are so many brothers and sisters who suffer because of economic problems, marginalization, poverty, injustice, corruption, sickness, loneliness and many other bad things.

The Blessed Virgin. She teaches us that love motivates us to be in solidarity and to share. She shares her life and her property/goods with Joseph. She shares her mission with Jesus. With Elizabeth, she shares her domestic duties. With the bride and groom at Cana, her concern.

Her inner solidarity in love has become solidarity of life and goods/property, solidarity of destinies and tasks, solidarity in work and in affliction.

Dear brothers and sisters, as in Mary – also in us – solidarity should grow and express itself in surrender and effective service toward others. It should lead us to help those we love, to resolve their problems of nutrition, health, housing, employment. All of this deepens our love for mankind and means... like an anticipation of perfect and total communion in Heaven.

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