**Homily for 5th Sunday of Easter**(5/19/2019)

Rev. Francis Kim

Today, Jesus tells us He is giving us a new commandment: to love one another. We have heard this hundreds of times. Love one another!

It was the final night Jesus was to spend with His disciples, prior to His arrest and crucifixion. These were His last words, His last will and testament. It was a one-line command, so simple, and yet so very profound and so difficult to do.

He says, “As I have loved you, so also you should love one another.” ‘As I have loved you’ are the key words here. Jesus wants us to love as He did.

The Greek word for ‘love’ that Jesus used implies action. It is not a passive word; it is an action words. We are to love by our actions. Jesus Christ, dying in our place, taking our sins on that Cross, is God’s love in action. There is no greater proof of God’s love for us than the Cross of Jesus Christ.

On the Cross, we see a new way of love: unselfish and sacrificial love that is forgiving, compassionate, and merciful beyond understanding. This love reminds us our identity, mission, and destiny as Christians. And, if we are trying to love each other as Christ loves us, we are giving powerful witness to the world.

For people today, the strongest proof that Christ is truly risen is not found in any book, but in how Christians show love for each other. Love is our mission, identity, and destiny.

The life of Jesus, the magnificent moment when He walked the earth 2000 years ago, died and rose from the dead, wasn’t supposed to be just an inspiring memory. It was a way of life that was to continue in His followers so that His love would continue to touch and heal the world.

But, we know, love is not always easy. Some may say, “Christian love is too hard. How can we sacrifice our lives for the sake of others? It is too heavy burden for us.” But, no burden is too heavy when it is given in love and carried in love.

When a man asked a boy who was carrying a smaller crippled child on his back, “That’s a heavy load you are carrying there.” Then, the boy replied, “He is not heavy; he is my brother!”

When we carry our love with Jesus, He also carries our burdens with us and gives us His strength to follow in His way of love. So, the burden of love is not heavy for us. So, Jesus once said, “My burden is light.”

God does not intend for us to be alone, but to be with others. And, we are to love by our actions. How?

Serve one another. The Lord modeled this when He washed His disciples’ feet. Be patient with one another. This is possible because the Holy Spirit is present in us. Be kind of one another. Even if someone is difficult or disagreeable, treat them with gentleness and love.

Set an example for one another in speech, in life, in love, in faith. Forgive one another because God forgave us. If we do not extend forgiveness, God will not forgive our sins.

We are not to judge one another. That is God’s job. We may be called to rebuke or reprove in love, but we are not to judge. Be subject one to another. That will mean not always having things our way.

Edify one another. We are to encourage and build up our sisters and brothers in Christ. Pray for one another. What a privilege to come before the Lord on another’s behalf.

Love is the root of all goodness. Without love, our faith is empty, and we are nothing. Love bears everything, believes everything, hopes everything, and endures everything.

Mather Theresa says, “Let us spread love everywhere we go. Let no one come to us without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness; kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting. Smile at each other, smile at your family, smile at your next-door neighbors, it doesn’t matter who it is, and that will help us to grow in great love for each other.”

This is the Christian way of living. Love one another!