

INTRODUCTION

Fraternal Love is the essence of what true Christian life is. Living and Loving for others made as the reflection of the love of God our Father here on earth.

This love also brings us to the profound recognition and understanding that we are all God's children. *Gaudium et Spes* a document of the Church reaffirming its stand that every human being is member of one family with the same Father, "*God who has Fatherly concern for everyone, has willed that all men should constitute one family and treat one another in a spirit of brotherhood (GS24).*

The Love that God poured in us, led us to the new and fresh experience of loving others. Our oneness with the life of Jesus made us see that there is more than loving ourselves and that is to go beyond our own self and embrace our neighbor, so they too can share the joy that we have received from this union. "*We only understand and live our vocation when, to the joy of our own life in Christ is united to the complete of the same life in our brothers.*" *VDStatutes 151.*

So our joy maybe complete is to make ourselves the neighbor of every person without exception and actively extending ourselves to be one with them sharing to them the joy, hope and love when they come

across our path in whatever conditions they may be, we ought to give what we have received for free from Christ and recalling the voice of Jesus saying "*As long as you did it for one these the least of my brethren you did it for me*". *Mt.25:40.*

MONDAY

Fraternal Love is Love without Measure

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also;⁴⁰ and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well;⁴¹ and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.⁴² Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you. **Matthew 5:38-42**

In our life we are used to measure things like commodities, that is why even in our own life and in our relationship with others we measure on how much we are willing to give and we measure on how much profit we can gain from it.

How about you? How is your giving? What is Jesus asking from you when you share?

TUESDAY

Love of Jesus: The True Model of Loving Others

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and

hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?⁴⁷ And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?⁴⁸ You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:43-48

The Love of God is always the opposite on how the world defines love. Difficult? Yes, but living the Love of God what truly defines our being, our identity, our dignity. In your life now, how do you live the Love that Jesus is presenting you towards your family, work, friends, neighbors and yes, even your enemies and persecutors?

WEDNESDAY

Fraternal Love is Giving with Joy and Humility

¹ "Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.² "Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you,

they have received their reward.³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,⁴ so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.⁵ "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.¹⁶ "And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Jesus loves a joyful and a humble giver. The love of Christ does not "show-off" and take pride of one's goodness. Jesus is leading us to a more complete joy and that is having a joyful and a humble heart when we give. How about you? Do you enjoy this kind of giving even without recognition or headlines?

THURSDAY

A Profound Life of Prayer Leads Us to a Sincere and Authentic Giving

⁷ "And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread; ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we also have forgiven our debtors; ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. ¹⁴ For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. **Matthew 6:7-15**

Jesus is teaching us to pray, making it more personal and humble dialogue with our Father. Only through these kind of dialogue everyday, we can enjoy much the giving of ourselves to others so that others may also see the beauty and joy of giving. How is your prayer? Does it lead you to give and share the joy and love of God to your neighbors?

FRIDAY

Our Giving will bring us Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,

where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; ²³ but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! **Matthew 6:19-23**

What treasures you desire most? What treasures are you keeping in your heart? Are the desires in your heart would lead you to what is essential in having fullness of life?

SATURDAY

Seek First the Kingdom of God

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. ²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ yet I tell you,

even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. ³⁴ "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.

Matthew 6:24-34

Be free from the anxiety of the uncertainty of life. No one or nothing here knows what lies ahead. What is certain is that Jesus knows our hearts and our desires. He wants us to see that in life we must put God first and everything will fall in its place. He holds the correct roadmap of our life. Let Him direct you. He has the compass of life: Follow Him. In your situation now, where does your life leading you? Who holds the compass of your life?

SUNDAY

1st Reading: Zac. 12:10-11; 13:1

Psalm: Ps. 63:2-6, 8-9

2nd Reading: Gal. 3:26-29

Gospel: Lk. 9:18-24

Verbum Dei

GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER

Fraternal Love



June 17-23, 2013

Objective of the week:

The Love of God brings us in a new experience of Love for Others.