

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."

The love of Christ is selfless. It is a love that does not ask anything in return. It is a love to the point of death.

People can, and even do, risk their lives for a noble cause. Firefighters do so when they run into a burning building. Police too, every time they strap on their bullet proof vest and step outside the door to begin a shift. A parent at the beach will give their life to save a drowning son or daughter. A teacher will shield students from an intruder.

The Firefighter, the Cop, the parent, the teacher, is willing to give their life to save another.

We are the ones in the burning building. We are the ones in harms' way. We are those who are drowning.

Yet instead of embracing our rescuer, swimming towards help, running from danger, we have done the opposite. Not only have we fled from the one sent to help us, but we have thrown him in the fire, we have dragged him under the waves, we have pushed him in front of the bullets.

"You Crucified the Holy One, the Righteous One." Says St. Peter.

The proof that God loves us is that Christ gave his life for us not when we were good, but when we were evil. He loves us when we do not deserve it.

This Love is the Truth. Jesus calls this 'Love towards the enemy'. Have we been enemies of Christ? The answer, if we are sincere, is 'yes.'

Yet, instead of being our condemnation, this truth can become our salvation. There is nothing, says St. Paul, which can separate us from the Love of Christ. This is a great Good News for us. No matter what we have done, what sin we have committed, there always a means for us to encounter this Love.

Will you experience it at Mass today?

Fr. Sean