



May 6, 2018

Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)

Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48

1 Jn 4:7–10 or 1 Jn 4:11–16

Jn 15:9–17 or Jn 17:11b–19

God's Generous Love

Our painting by Aldo Carpi (1886–1973) shows the Virgin Mary bringing the Baby Jesus to visit the poor. She doesn't make distinctions. Mary understood that Jesus didn't come just for the rich and powerful but for everyone.

Peter learns this lesson when speaking to Cornelius and his household. Until this time, the apostles were preaching to the Jewish people, but when Peter speaks to these Romans, the Holy Spirit comes upon them just as he had upon the Jews. They repent and believe. This for Peter was essential, because it showed that Jesus wanted to send his Spirit and teachings to everyone, not just the chosen race. God doesn't show favoritism.

The same goes for us. It's natural to want to love our

own: our family and those sharing our social status, political party, club, school, or parish. But our love has to spread to all peoples, especially those in the most moral, material, and spiritual need. God is love, and those who love show they come from God.

Another element of love is that it is free, wanting

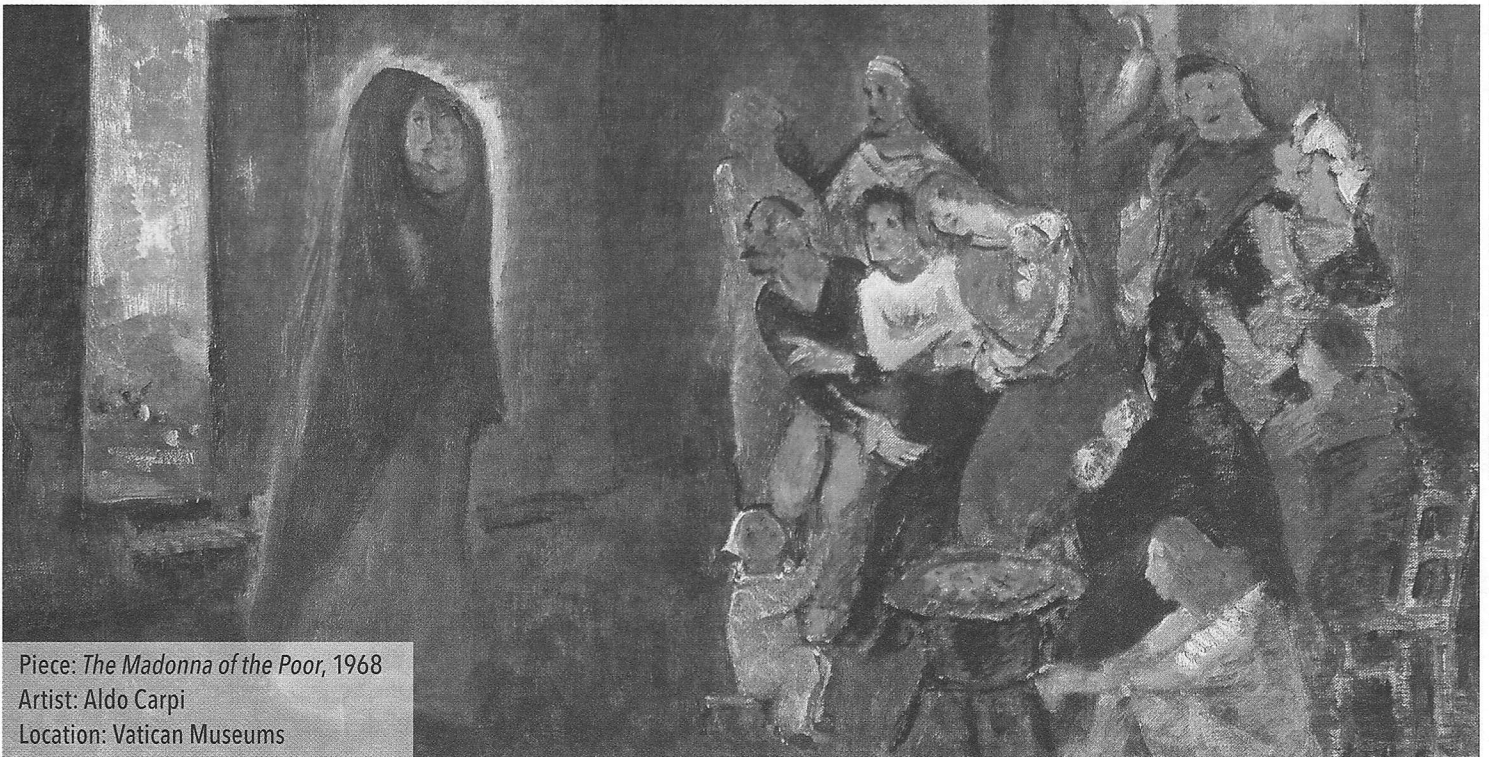
nothing in return. Recently, while sitting at an outdoor café, a woman walked up and gave me a small wrapped gift. "I like to give gifts to complete strangers, just to make their day," she said. What a beautiful gesture.

We should also note that Cornelius accepted God's love, was baptized, and began following the Way. He and his family didn't take that free love of God for granted. They responded to it in joyful obedience. God's generous love asks for an equally generous response.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

*How often do I help
or love someone who
disagrees with me,
or doesn't believe
what I believe?*



Piece: *The Madonna of the Poor*, 1968

Artist: Aldo Carpi

Location: Vatican Museums

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.*

1 John 4:7

Dear Parishioners of St. Ignatius,

Thank you to everyone who attended the **Town Hall** meeting this past Monday, for your prayers and great insights and questions. To those who weren't able to attend, I hope you were either able to attend a different town hall another night this week, or were able to speak with someone who attended. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or to Jennifer Poindexter or Stacy Kloeppel.

Also, at the time I wrote this letter, the plan was to post the **slides from the presentation** on the parish website. If they aren't up by the time you are reading this, they should certainly be up by the next weekend.

Please give a **warm welcome** to Fr. Mark Kramer and Bishop Rivituso as they help cover Masses in my absence this weekend. I am in Norfolk, VA, for my Goddaughter's First Holy Communion.

Speaking of which, please congratulate and pray for **Josie Liermann** and **Hunter Oakley** and their families, as they are making their First Holy Communion this Sunday!

Also, if you see Bishop Rivituso, please pray for and congratulate him. He celebrated his **One Year Anniversary** as a Bishop this past Wednesday, May 2nd. Thank you for your 'yes' to Christ! As his episcopal motto states, "The love of Christ impels us!" (2 Cor 5:14). May Christ's love for us on the Cross and in the Eucharist impel us to become the saints He made us to be!

This coming week, on May 10th we will have our official **May Crowning** of our Blessed Mother after 8am Mass with the school – it would be great to have you join us. Also, this coming Sunday is **Mother's Day**! You are welcome to join us for a special Mother's Day breakfast at the Parish Center after the 10am Mass.

Lastly, as I am not with you this weekend, I leave you with this thought from the readings:

In the Gospel, Jesus gives a summary of His ministry: "*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you, and your joy might be complete.*" What an awe-some truth! The undying, eternal, infinite, undiminishing joy of God coming to dwell in us!

On one level, this notion that only Jesus can complete our joy is proven in daily life: no matter how much I pursue happiness in other things – money, power, pleasure, honor, love – they can never fully satisfy the desires of my heart, and we can drive ourselves to misery seeking satisfaction in even the greatest things of creation. This is because our hearts are made for God. As some say, "There is a God-sized hole in our hearts." As St. Augustine said in a prayer to God, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee, O Lord."

This is the point, then, of all of Jesus' commandments. They aren't to 'enslave' us to some arbitrary laws, but rather, they seek to *set us free* from confusion about who we are, that our hearts might become like the heart of Jesus, who fully reveals us to ourselves.

Why is this important? If we seek happiness as the goal, we can never catch it. But if we seek to become like Jesus as our goal, we find joy, *His joy*, along the way. And this is what completes our heart in the end.

That's all for now. God bless you, and thank you for your prayers. Know of mine for you.

Gratefully in Christ,
Father Buehler

The parishes of the Washington Deanery host...

THE CONVERSATION: A Catholic Perspective on End-of-Life Issues

Presented by the Roman Catholic Foundation

Conversations about illness, death and dying are never easy. Whether death comes suddenly or after a prolonged illness, most of us are not comfortable discussing our medical wishes or end-of-life plans with our loved ones. However, being prepared ensures that your final wishes are followed. It is important for you and your loved ones to understand the Church's teachings on end-of-life decisions. Advance planning on your part keeps your family from having to make these difficult decisions.

This free seminar is for people of all ages and life situations: singles, parents of young families, those caring for aging parents and those facing illness or death. There will be no solicitation at this event.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ***Principles of Catholic Bioethics***, Fr. Donald Henke, D.Th.M.
 - Ordinary and Extraordinary Means of Preserving Life
 - Quality of Life & the Dignity of the Human Person
- ***Advance Directives & Estate Planning***, Matt Schroeder, J.D.
- ***Charitable Gift Planning***, Mark Guyol, Roman Catholic Foundation
- ***Funeral & Cemetery Planning***, Fr. Jim Theby, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
 - Includes Anatomical Donation & Cremation

Saturday, May 19, 2018
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(lunch provided)

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
Parish Hall
1014 Madison Avenue
Washington, MO 63090

Give the gift of **planning** to your family.
Prepare to have **The Conversation** with your loved ones.

To reserve your place today, please visit rcfstl.org or call 314.918.2892.



Roman Catholic Foundation
of
EASTERN MISSOURI

Plan with heart. Invest for good.

Calendar

Monday

May 7

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:11–15

Jn 15:26–16:4a

Tuesday

May 8

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:22–34

Jn 16:5–11

Wednesday

May 9

Easter Weekday

Acts 17:15, 22–18:1

Jn 16:12–15

Thursday

May 10

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:1–8

Jn 16:16–20

Friday

May 11

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:9–18

Jn 16:20–23

Saturday

May 12

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:23–28

Jn 16:23b–28

Sunday

May 13

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ascension of the Lord

SEVENTH SUNDAY

READINGS:

Acts 1:15–17, 20a, 20c–26

1 Jn 4:11–16

Jn 17:11b–19

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

READINGS:

Acts 1:1–11

Eph 1:17–23 or Eph 4:1–13

or 4:1–7, 11–13

Mk 16:15–20

Dear Padre,

Is it acceptable for a Catholic health-care professional to be employed by a hospital that performs abortions, provided she has nothing to do with these procedures?

You raise an important issue about intentional involvement in wrongdoing, and my response extends to many other life situations.

A person may work in a hospital that performs abortions, provided that he or she is not involved with the procedures. Because performing abortions is only one part of what the hospital does, a person may work there contributing

his or her expertise to other areas of health care. If the circumstances were different, and the place of employment was dedicated to terminating pregnancies through abortion, it would be wrong to work there.

My response is guided by the principle of cooperation. It asserts that we may never intentionally cooperate approvingly in the morally wrong action of another person. To

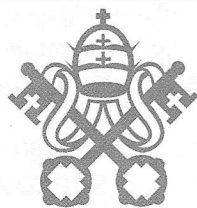
help another and approve of his immoral action is termed *formal cooperation*.

Cooperating with another reluctantly, disapproving of what he is doing, is called *material cooperation*. A person may never cooperate formally in another's wrongdoing because, in doing so, he or she also knowingly performs an immoral action. Some material cooperation may be morally justified, but not if a person's cooperation is necessary for an immoral action to occur.

The Church advises Catholics to avoid any level of moral cooperation. While many don't have the luxury to consider employment elsewhere, other considerations include: Is the individual creating scandal by employment at this hospital? Has the individual made his or her moral understanding known to this hospital?

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Adapted from *Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices*, © 2011 Liguori Publications



A Word From Pope Francis

Therefore, this Word of God calls us to love one another, even if we do not always understand each other, and do not always get along....It is then that Christian love is seen. A love which manifests even if there are differences of opinion or character. Love is greater than these differences!

—Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 10, 2015