

THE ZEAL TO DO GOD'S WILL

“Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping, and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer, and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father” (Pope Francis’ Lenten Message 2021, #3).

This Sunday is the third Sunday of Lent, which shows that we are half-way through this year’s Season of Lent. It is good to ask: how my Lenten observances have helped me to grow in virtues that deepen my relationship with God and others? The works we undertake during Lent are meant to deepen our zeal to do the will of God as our Lord Jesus Christ did. That is, these works are meant to strengthen our relationship with God and one another.

The zeal to do the will of God consumed the ministry of Jesus. It was this zeal that propelled Jesus to be forceful in some of his actions as he did in the cleansing of the temple in today’s gospel. However, the mystery of Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection demonstrates the highest sign of his zeal to do the will of God. Thus, as St. Paul discussed in the 2nd reading, the crucified Christ is a great sign for us to know the infinite and boundless love of God. Jesus invites us to respond to this love through our zeal to keep God’s commandments.

The first reading discussed the Ten commandments- Decalogue, which God gave the Israelites at Mount Sinai through Moses. These commandments Christ took and summarized into two: Love of God and Love of Neighbor. These two parts of the commandments are unbreakable. It means that the love we have for God shows itself in the way we treat each other. Let us ask the good Lord to strengthen our zeal to do his will and to demonstrate the love we have for him through the love we have for one another. Amen.