

## **God is Love: To Love Truly is to Know and Remain in God's Love**

The catchword in today's readings is LOVE, which is repeated many times in the second reading and the Gospel that were written by the same author John, the beloved apostle who showed the love he experienced in his Gospel and Letters. The same love is demonstrated in a practical way by the words and actions of Peter in the first reading. Peter welcomed in love the Gentile-Cornelius and his family.

The Christian love is grounded in the love of God and the love of neighbor. The question that comes up from this understanding of love is, why and how do we have to love God? The answer is simple; the nature of God is to love and God is love. To reflect on God's revelation and the gift of himself to us is to reflect on his love. God continues to shower this love on us in spite of ourselves. This is very clear in the salvation history, from creation to redemption. Our love for God is shown in our effort to keep his commandment because to love him is to keep his commandment, and to keep his commandment is to remain in his love.

The love of one's neighbor is another aspect of love that is closely knitted to our love of God. The love of God and love of neighbor are two sides of the same coin. The love we believe we have for God is evaluated by the love we have for one another. We see in others the image of God and this image of God in them propels us to love them in spite of themselves. The mission God sends us always is to continue to carry the message of his love to people we meet in our families, in places of work, and in whichever community we find ourselves. We remain the eyes, the hands, and the mouth that will speak and act out God's love.

As we have gathered today to celebrate our Mother's Day, we pray and thank God for the gifts of our mothers. Their presence in our lives demonstrates what it means to love truly and selflessly. We ask the good Lord to continue to strengthen our mothers in all their struggles to become the best of mothers and wives. A day like this gives us the opportunity to reflect on how we treat our mothers either as our wives or as mothers. The mothers need our supports and our encouragements both in words and actions. It is also a day for the mothers to reflect on how they do their duties as mothers and wives; how they are true instruments of God's love in their families, in the Church, and in the society. We pray through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saintly mothers like St. Monica that God's love will continue to shine in and through our mothers. Amen.

**Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers!**