

Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ 5/6

"Little children, I am with you only a little longer. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 13: 33-34)

We have had an information explosion in the past century. Humanity has easily tripled the amount of knowledge that we had before 1900. We need only look at the advances in medicine and in the infant science of aeronautics to know this is true. Computers and fiberoptics have made calculations and communications instantaneous. Yet we still don't have a cure for cancer, and astronomers tell us that the universe is filled with a lifetime of mysteries that are yet to be understood. Humanity realizes that there is much to discover, but there is excitement because the challenge of exploration is second nature to us.

There are, however, areas of understanding that we do not seem to have made much progress in throughout the years. No matter how much one generation tries to comprehend these subjects it seems that the following generations must revisit and relearn the concepts. Wouldn't it be nice if there was a manual that would teach us all how to love, how to make peace and how to be people of justice? If only there was a set formula for loving just as there is for certain mathematical calculations. It would be great if peace would be as easily achieved as learning to read. And if justice were only as complicated as programming a computer, the world would certainly be in better shape.

Jesus seems to indicate that love, peace and justice are courses that take a lifetime to master and even that is not long enough for some of us. His apostles had lived with Him for three years but as He gives this command to love He seems to acknowledge that His followers are only just beginning to learn the concept of love. They had to be given a command to love because like all children they needed to have some direction. The Spirit would help them but they will make mistakes along the way and they will often need to relearn the fundamentals of loving their neighbor.

We too are infants in the study of love; otherwise with all of our knowledge we would have figured out how to avoid wars and oppression. It seems like we are still on the wrong side of the learning curve and so we need to listen to this command of Jesus to love one another and allow the Spirit to move us closer to understanding what that means.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Why has humanity not been able to learn more about love, peace and justice?*
- 2. How much have I learned about love? Who has taught me?*

Prayer: Lord, may I thirst for love, peace and justice with more intensity than anything else that I pursue.