

Homily for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This Sunday, the Gospel takes us to the event of the Last Supper, where Jesus is preparing His disciples for what is to come, and in His final teachings, He gives them a new commandment: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.

Jesus knew what was to come in about some a couple hours, and in His final speech, He wants His disciples to get prepared ahead of time.

The commandment to love one another will be His own guide as well as of His disciples at the beginning of their ministry, and later it will be the foundation of Christian life, and our Christian families. Love is good, but it has its sweet face and its bitter face

Sweet: when things are going smoothly with the people you love, with your partner, etc.

Bitter: when your people, your partner is giving you hard time all the times

When I was two years as a Priest, there is a lady who came to see me in my office like four times, complaining about how her husband was treating her, and she was asking me some pieces of advice: always drunk, and beating her at the point that she was almost dead, and this not one time or two times, but uncountable times...

The last time she came to see me she had a decision to leave, and go back to her mom and dad's house, ... I replied: go, think twice, pray, and myself I will pray for you... but she said I have taken time to think about it, then I have to go.

One month later, she came back to see me: I thought she was coming from her mom and dad's home, and I said, are you good now since you are free from the mistreatment of your husband? Guess what she said: "Father, I did not go". And she continued: "If I leave him, if I abandon him, who will take care of him, he should die. And then I decided to stay no matter what. End of the story...

Jesus also would have said: If I do not die for them, who will save them? (...)

I said love is good, but let me add that it's challenging too! Because it always means self-giving, sacrifice, forgiving, mercy, and so on.

This is the life and the heart of Jesus: He faced betrayal and rejection, but He never thought about revenge, no resentment, no hatred. In our life we have to be prepared to face all those, and react like Jesus, because our own love has to reflect the same Love of Jesus

When your friend, your husband, your wife, becomes bitter toward you, mistreats you! Will you keep loving him or her? Remember always this: Love one another AS I have loved you. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, (...)

- ✓ This Easter season calls us to embrace that love, to share it, and to live it in everything we do.