

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to John (*John 13:34-35*)

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ **Be Faithful to the Name We Bear**

Christian is our name. *The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch (Acts 11:26).* In life we have many roles: parent, child, spouse, friend, relative, employee, employer, student, etc. However diverse or wide-ranging the roles are, one thing is common. Each and everyone are called to be a child of God. God made this possible through Jesus Christ our Lord. All roles will fall away and only one role will be left in eternity. That role is as a child of God. How strongly do I identify with this role? The strength of my identity as a child of God depends on my faith and vice versa. How strongly I identify myself as a child of God depends on how strongly I identify myself with the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, God and Man is a live person with a warm beating heart. How strongly I identify myself with Him depends upon my personal relationship with Him. Is Jesus a real person, my best friend close to my heart or is He just a vague magical concept somewhere up there to whom I direct all my petitions and intentions?

By love they will know. God is love, and love is to be our badge of identification as disciples of Christ. Jesus came to show us how to live and how to love. He shows us that true love is sacrificial and gives us His life as a convincing example. *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters (1 John 3:16).* Jesus has demonstrated by His life that true love is a total giving of self in accordance with God's will. *“Jesus said: Not My will but Yours (God the Father's) be done.” (Luke 22:42).*

My Priestly Role. Through the grace of my Baptism, I am called to share in the mission of Jesus in His priestly role in His kingdom. A priest offers up sacrifices to God on behalf of His people. Jesus is the eternal high priest who is also the Sacrifice. The Sacrifice (Mass) is offered up many times throughout the day to our Heavenly Father for worship, adoration, thanksgiving, as atonement for sins of mankind and for the many needs and problems of an aching world. I too am called to make sacrifices in union with Jesus, and to pray for the conversion of sinners that God loves so much and desires everyone to be saved and come to a knowledge of the Truth which is Jesus Christ (cf. 1 Tim 2:4, John 14:6).

My Prophetic Role. Through the grace of my Baptism, I am called to share in the prophetic role of Jesus to bring the Good News of Christ to those around us. *And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? (Romans 10:14-15).* We have been commissioned and sent through the grace of our Baptism and Confirmation. *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news... (Isaiah 52:7).*

My Kingly Role. Through the grace of my Baptism, I have been called to share in the kingly role of Jesus in expanding the kingdom of God among hearts of mankind. At His last command before His ascension into heaven, I have been commissioned to build up His kingdom: *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20).*

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, I want to accept You fully and identify completely with You. Together with St. Peter I say to You, *“Lord to whom shall I go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68).* Help me strengthen my personal relationship with You. Imprint Your Words on my heart. Imprint Your image on my soul by helping me to faithfully live my faith every day. If I live, let me live for You. If I die, let me die for You. May I be proud of my identity as a Christian and stand to be counted as one of Your glorious kingdom now and forever. Mary, Protectress of the Faith, form my heart for Jesus only. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus