

Fr Rudy's Reflections  
The Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 5, 2024

### Remain in My Love

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

In today's world, where division seems to be the norm, Jesus's call to "remain in my love," highlighted in today's Gospel, takes on a profound significance. Because we seem to witness conflicts, strife, and discord daily, Jesus's beautiful words remind us of the power and importance of love, especially *his* love, in overcoming the negative aspects of life that often hurt and worry us. Whether it's issues that affect us all, such as animosity between nations, the polarization in politics, criminality within communities, or issues that impact us personally, such as rifts in families, disagreements with friends, or anger within ourselves, the call to remain in love, despite the negativity and disorder of our lives, offers us a path to healing, reconciliation, and a way forward.

Today, on this Sixth Sunday of Easter, we delve deeper into the fifteenth chapter of the Gospel of John that continues Jesus's Last Supper Discourse. Here Jesus refers to the "commandments" five times and "love" nine times, with both words juxtaposed to help us better understand the great lessons of his ministry.

Jesus' first and greatest commandment is to love God with our whole hearts and our neighbor as ourselves. Yet, Jesus implores us not just to love but to remain in his love. He desires not just fleeting happiness but complete joy for us all. And how glorious it is that Jesus elevates our relationship with him by referring to us as friends! This profound shift in perspective underscores the depth of his love and the intimacy he seeks with us. Furthermore, Jesus reaffirms that it is he who chose us, initiating this bond of love and his eternal commitment.

What does this Gospel mean for our lives today? In the midst of the conflicts and challenges we face, Jesus's words offer solace and guidance. Just as he chose to love us despite our flaws, we are called to extend that same love to others, even when it seems most difficult. Our world may be fractured, but by remaining rooted in the love of Christ, we can strive for unity, understanding, and reconciliation. Just as Jesus embraced the outcasts and the marginalized, we are called to reach out to those on the margins of society, to those who suffer often inconsolably, by extending the same love and acceptance that we have received. In doing so, we become vessels of his love, bringing light into the darkness and healing to all the brokenness around us.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Rudy