

(Food for thought: Gospel: John 15: 9-17)

“Remain in my Love”



If you keep my
commands, you will
remain in my love,

Today's Gospel and those of the last few weeks are drawn from Jesus' farewell discourse in John's Gospel. The season is Easter, after Christ's resurrection. But these readings take us back to the table when Jesus shares a meal with his disciples, speaks his departing words to them, giving them a new commandment: that they love one another as He has loved.

Jesus lived to bring hope, and peace, and compassion. He came to set people free from fear and ignorance. He died for those in prison, for the homeless, for the poor, the prostitutes and sinners, the rejected and the despised. He took time

to heal those possessed, the leprous, the dying. He loved them as much as he loved all.

And His command to love one another takes on a communal character in our lives as we struggle each day together in our journey of faith. We are challenged to love all people regardless of whether we like them or not; regardless of whether they have hurt us; regardless of whether they share our beliefs, or customs, or way of life.

The message of Jesus started out as quite simple one: Love God and love each other. There is no need for us to refine, redefine or wrap this message with our own theological concepts of what He was talking about. But the message remains, and the challenge lies before us. Moving beyond our entrenched thinking and the images we

have of how things are and should be is possibly the most difficult conversion for any of us.

The possibilities are many and we will each have to find our own way to “remain” in Christ's love. But this is the work to which we are called. This is the kingdom that this Risen Jesus has promised to all of us.



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