

“Creativity, Courage and Hope”

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Jesus said to his disciples: “My commandment is this: Love one another as I have loved you.”

Today's readings invite us to reflect on love: supportive love, agape, between brothers and sisters, unconditional love. It is clear that Jesus has loved us in such a way because that is how God the Father loved the Son, and that love is precisely what identifies us as Christians. It is about the ability to love each other as brothers. The evidence of that brotherly love testifies to the presence of Christ in our lives and confirms that, as we gather together in his love, we are the concrete manifestation of his Church.

But what does that love demand of us? This love requires creativity, courage, and hope.

Creativity: Psalm 33.6, reminds us of God's creative capacity. Create is a verb related to God. The first biblical reference about the God of Israel is his creative capacity. Consequently, the Christian church celebrates the creative activity of God, who through his word gives rise to everything that exists.

Creativity is one of the distinctive traits that make human beings a unique species. By investigating its roots, it is discovered that human creativity arises from the biological need to explore, intervene and interact with the environment. That biological nature gives us the tools to become innate researchers and assertive problem solvers. As a divine creation we are equipped with the virtue of the divine image and have been endowed by God with the special capacity to generate, communicate and express ourselves.

Creativity should help us find new ways to express and extend the love we have been loved with, even when it seems like we have exhausted every last idea about how to show it. Creativity goes beyond generating novel ideas. It requires knowing how to correctly

define and analyze a problem, assign the necessary resources to implement the solution and evaluate the product obtained.

Courage: We want to develop patience but we do not want to live in difficult situations, we want to develop pure love but we want to love people who are “easy to love”, we want to have His spirit but at the same time we want to do our will. Being like Christ, in addition to keeping his commandments, has to do with going beyond what our natural capacity tells us we have to go, because

To follow the Savior is to walk on the path that few are on and want to be on.

We will need courage and courage when we face challenges of any kind, the result will be better if we are faithful to the Lord. Facing challenges at his side guarantees victory. God always helps to overcome challenges and bring us victories. Fidelity is a fundamental part of our lives. Fidelity has to be in each of the things we have in life. Fidelity to God is to remain linked to Jesus, like the branches to the vine.

Hope: The word “hope” in the Bible expresses confidence and security regarding the future because it is based on the promises, character, and faithfulness of God. Through Jesus we have had that anchor of hope.

1 Corinthians 13:7 says, “[Love] forgives all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” We are called to hope for a better life and a bright future. We are called to believe in people when no one else will. God has a relationship and abundant life for anyone if they simply come to know Him. And he has chosen to use his children to share that message of hope.

Ultimately, living Christian hope is living hope in the promise of the One who has loved us to the extreme. It's about waiting each day knowing that God is the one who has the last word.

Finally, the love that Jesus speaks to us about is the love of the God who never abandons us. God walks with his creation, Jesus frees us through his saving mission and the Holy

Spirit renews our faith and sanctifies us: "The Lord gives us a new commandment, that we all love one another as God loves us."

Jesus gives us this new commandment after having anticipated, in the opening paragraph of this chapter, with the phrase: "I am the vine, and you are the branches. He who remains united to me, and I united to him, bears much fruit; Well, without me you can't do anything." The request that he makes to us to remain in him and with him is also a commandment. Remain is a verb and is as active as the verb love.

To remain in Christ means to remain in his love, following his commandment to love us. This abiding in the love of Christ is undoubtedly related to abiding in the love of God.

By remaining in the love of Christ we commit to following this new commandment that the Lord has given us, and with this we commit to be creative to share this love, to maintain the courage to face the future and the hope that it gives us. God will always be with us.