

Trinity News

April 25, 2010

Easter V - No Greater Love – John 15:1-13

Substance counts. ANZAC Honour Boards across the British Commonwealth carry the names of those lost in battles, recent and long forgotten. The text from John 15:13 is inscribed on many such boards: “No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” It was a prophecy about the sacrifice of Christ in its original context. Its general application to the human struggle is also true.

Respect has to do with attraction: courage linked to sacrifice attracts.

It is wonderful to meet someone who knows you without having to tell them your secrets.

Perhaps women can’t keep secrets because they are too honest. They are given secrets and they pass them on. If they did not do so, none of us would be alive. They carry the mystery of life.

Young men and some foolish older ones seek respect by trying to conquer women. But women, young or older, are never conquered. The taste of victory soon turns sour unless it gets clothed with respect. Women learn nothing from men when they try the same lack-lustre exercise. No respect, no gain. Passion without respect turns cold. It has to prove its reality over and over. The effort achieves nothing and heartache ensues.

Every human being has an inner battleground. The wars that we wage always reflect that inner war. Not many people find consistent inner peace. It is not found in comparing ourselves with others, or in picking on other people’s faults. After all, most of our problems with other people reside in us already. Peace is not found in manipulation or greed or pride or racism or violence of any kind. It is not found in beating a child or abusing a spouse or falsely thinking that privilege and power can buy respect. The respect it buys dissolves like mist before the rising sun when the years begin to fail. Words at the funerals of such people are hollow, and despair hangs over the coffin.

Respect is easily lost and tough to regain. Wars bring the real matters of life into abrupt and sharp perspective. Anyone who glorifies war is a maniac. But in war friendships are made forever, fear drives sheer courage, death lurks around the next corner, painting clear pictures in the sky about what really matters. The photos of loved ones are tattered from holding them, looking and looking. Out of the fires of hate and violence created by humanity sometimes hope rises. Then the best is remembered in the dream of shaping a peaceful and fruitful tomorrow.

Walking free wherever you are, looking at the awesome sky above, respected for who you are rather than what you are, holding the hand of a child for whom you have a love that they will never fully understand; living well and dying well, feeling the tap on the shoulder that calls you home, and nodding assent because you have loved and been loved; knowing that you will be loved forever by a few incredibly loving and sound people, on earth and in heaven; hearing the voice from the fire of God’s holiness saying, “I will be where and when I will be, (and I am here for you now).” Now that’s a reason for being and a place to stand up and shout, “I’m free and I know the cost of it; I don’t know all the answers, but I have faced the deep questions and after a long journey I’m content. Bring it on!”

Bishop Arthur Jones

Next week's readings:

Acts 13:44-52

Psalm 145

Revelation 19:1,4-9

John 13:31-35

Confirmation class will be offered soon.

Those who wish to take part, please see Bishop Jones.

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Ron & Vera Thoburn, JPeter, Emma Duhaylongsod, Beryl Tanner, Ron Jacob, Aris Paraman, Diana Croyston, Loy Solasco, Benjie Conzales, Merly Quiapos, Ted Whale, Fidelia Matthews, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Bonnie SyCip, Jovel Llagas, Carrie Angus, Suzanne Jacobson, Emerinciana Gatela, Johnny Manning Jr, Augusto Natividad, Richard Kendall, Susan Dalmas, Helen Irvine, Amy Gonzales, Nikolai Gordevich, Janet Johnstone, Reuben Longid, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Avelina Collado.

THIS WEEK:

Apr 27, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am

Apr 29, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel.

- Bible Study, 7pm, Rectory.

May 2, Sunday.

- Regular Sunday service, 7:30/9:30 (*UE Chorale, guest choir at the 9:30 service.*)
- 9:15am, Sunday School.

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	2010 Budget
Pledge	P41,600.00	P1,187,823.82	P3,900,000.00
Loose Plate	P15,530.00	P294,851.10	P940,000.00