

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost V Love is a Many Splendoured Thing

The passage in I Corinthians 13 is the best-known of Paul's reflections on love. But the set passage today from II Corinthians 8:1-9 is quite striking in itself.

“Now as you excel at everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking”

(II Corinthians 8:7).

This is a reference to the generosity of the saints in Corinth towards the church in Jerusalem. It is compared to the offerings by the churches in Macedonia. Paul is probing the motivations for giving to the work of the ongoing life of the church. “I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor so that by his poverty you might become rich.”

(I Corinthians 8:8-9).

This passage is about the genuineness of love and what it really means in human life. It is also about the genuineness of love in the expression of our faith. We need to take stock of where we are at in this parish in our giving and our commitment to worship and service. They go together “like a horse and carriage” as in the old song.

This above all: Love one another. Gospel of John 15:1

It is one of those beautiful ‘coincidences’ that I have been reading this week a book by Stephanie Dowrick. She was born in New Zealand and has lived in Australia since 1983 after spending some time in the UK. Stephanie is a psychotherapist and inter-faith minister, but she is best known for a series of remarkable books. She wrote a book called *The Universal Heart* in 2000, and it is just been reissued. It is a very practical book about the huge cluster of aspects that oscillate around the word **love** and all its expectations and connotations. Each chapter ends with a thorough treatment of the practical aspects of love and Stephanie's inside knowledge of the human heart is plain to see. She has looked deeply at

other religious faiths and spiritual paths but I sense that the deepest heart matter for Stephanie is the way in which she walks through Christ into God. We may enjoy other spiritual traditions and become familiar with them. However, religion is like a language. We may know many languages, but the language we learn first is the one that has remained in our dreams and our deepest analyses, even though we may have rich understandings of other languages.

Quotes from Stephanie Dowrick:

“There is no other way to love but generously. Love makes it possible for you to receive what others can give you. Love honours and expresses freedom. Love demonstrates itself through acts of kindness, respect, delight, trust and patience.

Love knows what to overlook. Love knows the value of silence. Acting freely we become free.

There is nothing that you cannot face if you know within yourself that you have that capacity.

The well-being of the world depends upon the way we love”.

Bishop Arthur Jones

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Ezekiel 2:1-7; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-6

THIS WEEK:

July 3, Tuesday.

- Group Discussion @ the Tutton's, 7:30pm (#3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village, Makati)

July 5 Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel.

ADVANCE NOTICE:

- *“The Power of Stillness and Silence.”* Prayer Seminars on Christian Meditation. July 11 and 12, 9am-5pm, De La Salle University-Manila, Taft Avenue, Manila. Call 703-1285, 536-3104 or the office 817-9440 further information.
- ECW General Membership Meeting, July 14, 2pm-4pm. Parish Hall.