

# Forming Good Stewards

Good stewards are formed by other good stewards!

Please make sure this is distributed to the *pastor*, to the other *priest* and *deacons* in the parish, and to the *person who produces the bulletin*.

## Bulletin Bites

May 6, 2018

Sixth Sunday of Easter

John 15:9-17

### Option 1

**“This is my commandment: *love one another as I love you.*”**

Imagine you are flying in a perfectly good airplane and someone you love says, “If you love me you will do as I do” and then jumps out of that perfectly good plane and pulls the cord on a parachute. An attendant on the plane helps you strap on a parachute. What would you do for your loved one? At the Last Supper Jesus told his disciples “Love one another as I love you.” He had just told them, “If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love.” Several times previously he had told them what God told Moses and the prophets to tell the Israelite people: “Love your God with your whole heart, mind, soul and strength; and love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus had also told his followers to “Love your enemies.” Then, just before going out to be falsely arrested, brutally tortured and nailed to a cross, Jesus said, “Love one another as I love you.” Jumping out of a plane with a parachute may not seem so bad. But, how are we doing that “love one another as I love you” thing? It was not a request. It was a command!

### Option 2

**“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.”**

Jesus poses the question, “What is love?” In the stage play and movie, *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye and his wife Golda sing the beautiful duet, *Do You Love Me?* They reflect on their twenty-five years of life together in an arranged marriage and their struggles to raise five daughters under very difficult conditions for Jews in Tsarist Russia in 1905. They conclude, “If that’s not love, what is?” Jesus repeatedly told his followers what God told Moses and the prophets to tell the Israelite people: “Love your God with your whole heart, mind, soul and strength; and love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus also told his disciples to “Love your enemies.” At the Last Supper just before going out to be falsely arrested, brutally tortured and nailed to a cross, Jesus said, “*Love one another as I love you.*” Jesus gives us the ultimate answer to the question, “What is love?” It was not a suggestion. It was not a request. **It was a command!** How are we doing with that *Love one another as Jesus loved us* thing?

**May 13, 2018**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**John 17:11b-19**

**Option 1**

**“As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.”**

Historians have identified a common trait of great leaders. It is not their strategy or tactics, although those are important. It is not that they assembled overwhelming numbers of soldiers against an inferior enemy. *It is that they lead from the front.* King Leonidas at the front of three hundred Spartans at Thermopylai; Alexander the Great; George Washington; and Andrew Jackson all *lead* their men into battle. They did not ask others to take more risk than they were willing to take themselves. *They lead from the front.* God the Father sent His Son into the world to teach us by His **Actions** and by His **Words** to go into the world and to lead others to follow Him by imitating Him. Jesus is the Word and the Truth. He taught us the Truth with his Word. He showed us the Truth in his Actions. *Jesus lead from the front.* When we acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God and imitate him, he is in us and we are him and he is in the world. Have we followed him? Are we still following? Will we lead others to him? *Do we lead from the front?*

**Option 2**

**“Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth.**

**As you sent me into the world, so I send them into the world.”**

Disciple means “one who follows.” The disciples followed Jesus. They chose to follow him because of his words and deeds; because his deeds were consistent with his words. His words were true because his words were God’s words. He showed them his love for others and then told them that God’s love is more that we can know or imagine. He taught them that as the Father loves them, they must love one another. But Jesus knew his deeds and words were disturbing the Jewish and Roman leaders and that they were threatened by the number of people who were listening to Jesus and beginning to follow him; who were beginning to realize that God’s law of love is truth and is greater and superior to any man made law. Apostle is “one who is sent.” Jesus prays to the Father as he sends his disciples into the world as apostles to teach the truth by what they say and do. At our Baptism we are consecrated in the truth and are sent into the world to teach the truth by what we say and do.

**May 20, 2018**  
**Pentecost Sunday [Mass during the Day]**  
**John 20:19-23**

**Option 1**

**“When the Advocate comes, he will testify to the me.**

**And you will also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.”**

Aware that the Jewish and Roman leaders wanted to silence him, Jesus tried to assure his disciples at the Last Supper that he would not abandon them, and that the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth, would always be with them. The disciples would have been comforted by his words, particularly because he noted that they had been with him from the beginning. In the Garden of Gethsemane the betrayal and murder of Jesus begins to unfold and the disciples loose confidence

in the Advocate and seem to question the benefit of having been with Jesus from the beginning. It is not until Pentecost [fifty days] after Jesus rose from the dead that the disciples become aware that the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth, was with them and they had the courage to go into the world to proclaim the Truth. We were baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and received that Advocate, the Spirit of Truth, at our Confirmation. How do we demonstrate that the that in our lives?

### **Option 2**

#### **“Receive the Holy Spirit”**

Seven weeks ago we celebrated the Joy of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. We recalled the tremendous love of God to create us; to give us all that we have; the intelligence to discern God’s will for us and the free will to choose to do his will. We celebrated the passion Jesus has for us and recalled the suffering he endured for us. Hopefully we gathered on Easter Sunday with family and friends to eat foods and consumed drinks that we had given up for Lent. Since Easter we learned that the disciples struggled to understand what they had seen and heard. On Pentecost they accepted the “Peace of Christ” and “the Advocate, the Holy Spirit” and had the courage to step out into the streets of Jerusalem to boldly proclaim their faith in Jesus as Messiah and Lord. Then they demonstrated their faith by imitating Jesus. The suffered much and many gave all. Do we boldly proclaim Jesus as Messiah and Lord where we live and by the way we live? What are we willing to give? What do we risk?

**May 27, 2018**

**Solemnity of the Holy Trinity**

**Matthew 28:16-20**

#### **“Go and make disciples of all nations . . .”**

It is hard to be in many places in the world without seeing people of all generations using a cell phone to call or text or email someone on the other side of the planet, or sitting across the table. We have come a long way. Or have we? More than half of the world's population has never seen a cell phone, or any other kind of phone. On a hillside in Galilee Jesus, without any kind of phone, commissioned His disciples [and us] to “Go and make disciples of all nations.” Now, more than two thousand years after His Resurrection, more than half the world does not know Jesus or our Triune God. If half of the world’s population is without a knowledge of a cell or any other phone, that is unfortunate [or maybe not]. But half of the world’s population with no knowledge of our Triune God and Jesus as the Second Person of that Trinity, must be a real disappointment to Him. Are we doing our part to “make disciples of all nations?” What if Jesus is taking names and making notes?