

May 18, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

This morning we continue our examination of the Seven Godly Virtues with a look at the most blessed of virtues - Charity. Of course, the virtue of Charity is not the often thought of virtue of generosity - "I am charitable so I give to the Diocese of San Joaquin." Generosity does not equal Charity, those the virtue of Charity is generous.

Charity is the virtue that opposes the vice of Greed because rather than seeking anything for itself, Charity seeks to pour out itself for another.

Simply stated the virtue of Charity is the virtue of Love. This is not the love that is spoken of in Hallmark greeting cards, the romantic or emotional love. This is not the love of physical passion of which so much of our society seems to be obsessed. This is the love that St. Paul wrote about in First Corinthians chapter 13. This Love does not come from emotion or strength or discipline (though all three of those are aspects). This love is the gift of the Holy Spirit - given freely to those who open their hearts and minds and simply ask.

This week we celebrate the feast of Pentecost and as we do we remember the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit. The gift of Love (*agape*) comes directly from the Holy Spirit - let us pray that God the Holy Spirit will fill us with this most sacred and holy gift...and perhaps more importantly put that gift into action. As St. Paul wrote:

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I



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spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13 ESV)

Blessings to you all!

Bishop Menees

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May 2013 Edition of The San Joaquin Anglican

Check this edition of the San Joaquin Anglican
for current news of the Diocese!

Diocesan Calendar

Check the Diocesan Calendar for information on upcoming events!

May 18th - Diocesan Council @ 10 a.m.

May 19th - The Feast of Pentecost

Bishop @ St. Francis in Turlock

May 20th - Youth Team Meeting @Diocesan House 10 a.m.

May 25th- Bishop @ St. Peter's in Kernville

Bishop to speak at the ACW Meeting at St. Paul's in Visalia

May 26th - Bishop @ St. Michael's in Ridgecrest

June 1st - Missions' Board Meeting @ Diocesan House 10 a.m.

June 2nd - Bishop @ St. David's in San Rafael

June 7th - 9th - COM/Examining Chaplains Retreat

@ Diocesan House

June 9th - Bishop @ St. Columba's in Fresno

June 15th - Diocesan Council @ 10 a.m.

June 16th - Bishop @ St. Alban's in Los Banos

June 18th - June 21st - Provincial Council and

College of Bishops @ Nashotah House

June 23rd - Bishop @ St. Andrew's in Lancaster

August 2-4th - Anglican Church Women's Annual Retreat
at Camp San Joaquin

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