

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Love each other

INTRODUCTION

Jesus loves each one of us so much that he died on the cross so we could share eternal life with him. He asks us to be generous and to share this love with all of humankind.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read this prayer:

The candle flame is warm and bright;
it changes darkness into light.

We feel its warmth and see its glow,
and when we look at it we know,
the light of Christ is burning bright,
for we are children of the light.

SORRY

After a few moments of quiet reflection, ask the children to sing Sorry Song 1.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4.

GOSPEL (JOHN 15:9-17)

One day Jesus said to his disciples: "I love you just as my father loves me. If you do as I ask then you will always be close to me, and my father will love you, too. I want you to love each other in the same way as I have loved you. I have chosen you to be my friends and am sending you out to share this love with the rest of the world."

DISCUSSION

Jesus asked his disciples to love one another as he had loved them. Jesus reminded his disciples many times that the greatest commandments were to love God and to love each other.

What does it mean to love another person? To love someone else means that you care about another person, about their happiness, and the things which happen to them. You want only the

best for them, and for them to grow in love and goodness.

Sometimes when there is a disaster, people behave heroically by saving the lives of others instead of their own. Their love for another person is so great that they put that person's needs before their own.

Jesus' love for us was so great that he did an extraordinary thing for us. "Greater love has no man, than to give up his life for others." Jesus loved us so much that he was ready to die so that we could live and share new life with him in heaven.

Jesus asked us to share his love with each other. We can put our love into action:

—by spending some time with someone who is lonely;

—by offering help to someone who needs it;

—by sharing our happiness with others.

We can put our love into words:

—by telling the members of our family how much we love them;

—by praying for the needs of other people;

—by praising and thanking God for all that we have.

(Encourage the children to make their own suggestions.)

Jesus lives inside each one of us, so whatever we say or do to each other, we say or do it to him. We can make everything we do a little act of love for God.

ACTIVITY

Make a "love is..." booklet for each child with several blank pages for their own drawings and ideas. Either use the illustration here for the cover, or the children can design their own.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly father,

our hearts are brimming over with your love.

Help us to be generous

and always ready to share this love

with everyone we meet.

