

5th Sunday of Easter – April 29

Homily by Fr. Charlie Krieg

(2 endings – 1 for 10 am Mass and 1 for 11:30 am Mass)

John, in our second reading, reminds us that Jesus gave us the law of love and charity. He reminds us that we do not really live according to the teachings of Jesus and scripture if we do not love each other. He says to us: “Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. This morning I would like to share with you a few thoughts about our love for others.

In the delightful book “Children’s Letters to God,” a six-year-old boy named Justin writes this: “Dear God. I know you said that we have to love everybody, but I don’t think you know my big brother.” I am sure that God does know Justin’s big brother, and I am sure that God loves him. I am also sure that God wants Justin to love him also. The Lord wants us to love everyone, especially the precious members of our family.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER WAYS OF SHOWING OUR LOVE for others. Today I am going to highlight just one way. One of my favorite stories is of the story of a young man who stopped at a barbershop for a **shave** and a **manicure**. While he was being shaved, he began to **flirt** with the woman giving him the manicure. He said, “You know, honey, you’re pretty cute. How about going out with to dinner with me tonight.” She said, “I’m sorry, but I’m married.” He said, “Big deal! Why don’t you just call the bum up and tell him that you’ll be home late tonight.” She smiled and said, “Why don’t you tell him yourself. He’s the guy who’s shaving you.”

- Point of story: That young man didn’t think before he spoke. He wasn’t careful about what he said. He didn’t weigh the consequences of his words, and he could have gotten into big trouble!
- My point: think before we speak to or answer someone else. Be careful of what we say. Weigh the consequences of what we are about to say. Only too often we hurt another person. Something he/she says or does something to annoy us. We blurt out the first thing that comes to our mind. We think it is going to make us feel better, but it doesn’t. Later we say to our self: “Why did I ever say that?” We regret what we said because we know that the only thing we did was to hurt them and maybe even damage a relationship.
- So, let us think before we speak. Let us try not to purposely hurt another’s feelings.

NOW THE MOTIVE WHY WE SHOULD LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR, SO TO SPEAK.

STORY: A kindergarten teacher handed out a coloring page to her class. On it was a picture of a duck holding an umbrella. The teacher told her class to color the duck in yellow and the umbrella green. But little Johnny, who always does things HIS way, colored the duck a bright firey red. After seeing this, the teacher asked him: "Johnny, how many times have you seen a red duck?" Young Johnny replied with, "The same number of times I've seen a duck holding an umbrella."

- I have a question for you this morning. Not “how many times have you seen a red duck or a duck holding an umbrella,” but how many times have you seen Jesus in other people?” Because that is where he is. Jesus identifies himself with others. He says, in effect, whatsoever you do to or for other people you do to or for me.” .

- That is why we should love others, why we should not hurt their feelings, why we should be patient with them, why we should be careful how we treat them. We should treat others as we would want to treat Jesus.

Ending at 10 am Mass

ONE FINAL THOUGHT: Richard Carlson, Ph.D. was a frequent lecturer and a consultant on stress and happiness. He was the author of “Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff,” a book that showed readers how to keep from letting the little things in life drive you crazy. In the book are 100 brief chapters. The last chapter is “**Live this day as if it were your last. It may be.**” **Carlson lived his last day on December 13, 2006**, dying of a pulmonary embolism during a flight from San Francisco to New York, leaving his wife and two teenage daughters. Carlson said that he ended his book on that chapter to remind us of how precious life really is, that we should enjoy it. He also wanted to remind us of **how precious our loved ones are**. He wrote: “**I often wonder, when listening to the news, did the person who died in the auto accident on his way home from work remember to tell his family how much he loved them?**” Carlson died suddenly and unexpectedly **nine years later**. I hope and pray that he told his family how much he loved them before he took that flight to San Francisco.

- In an episode of the comic strip Pickles about an elderly couple, they are sitting together on the sofa. The husband says to his wife: “Have I ever told you what a great wife you are? And how much I love and appreciate you? She replies, “Not lately, that I can recall.” He says, “Well, remind me to do that one of these days.”
- Now is the time to tell others that we love and appreciate them and not wait to do it “one of these days,” until it is too late. We could wait for their funeral and deliver a lovely eulogy to tell OTHERS how wonderful they were. Or we can tell THEM and we can do it NOW.

As we continue our Mass, let us promise Jesus that we will do as St. James in our first reading told us to do, that we will love others deed and in truth and not merely talk about it.

Ending 11:30 am Mass

ONE FINAL THOUGHT: A woman tells this story. Her five-year-old son was sitting on the front porch talking to one of his friends. She snuck up to the window to see and hear better. She was amazed to hear him telling his friend about Jesus. He told his friend that if she believed in Jesus and prayed, she could go to heaven. The friend was convinced, and spent a few minutes praying. Then the friend looked at her son and asked; “Will my mommy be in heaven too?” She said that he thought for a moment and replied; “Yes, if she believes in Jesus. But if you don’t want her in heaven with you, don’t tell her about Jesus!”

- We are talking about showing our love for others. One of the ways is by wanting others to go to heaven, by wanting them to know about Jesus.
- Prior to 1988 twelve people living in this area believed in Jesus. They wanted everyone to believe in Jesus and go to heaven. They wanted a church here where

people could come and express their love for Jesus. They were instrumental in founding this beautiful church of David the King. It is because of them that we are here today

In our first reading from the ACTS OF THE APOSTLES we heard that the early church grew in numbers. Well, this church has certainly grown in numbers over the years, especially under the pastorship of Fr. Tim. And please God, it will continue to do so. And, may I add, all of you good people are needed to continue to have this church, this parish, as a vibrant, living one.

As we continue our Mass, let us thank Jesus for this parish of St. David the King. Let us thank him for our founding fathers and mothers. Let us try to walk in their footsteps by doing what they did, trying to bring Jesus and his message to others, not only by our words but by our example, by the way we live. Let us do what John in our second reading urged us to do. Let us try to show our love for others not only in word but in deed and in truth.