



Immaculate Conception
Church

Homily for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Year B 2015

It was a busy morning, about 8:30, when an elderly woman in her 80's arrived to have stitches removed from her thumb. She said she was in a hurry as she had an appointment at 9:00 AM. The nurse took her vital signs and had her take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see her. Since she, herself, was not busy the nurse took time to evaluate the woman's wound. The wound was well healed, and so the nurse talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove her sutures and redressed her wound.

While taking care of her wound, the nurse asked her patient if she had another doctor's appointment as she was in such a hurry. The woman said that she needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with her husband.

When the nurse asked about her husband's health, she responded that he had been there for several years and that he was a victim of Alzheimer's disease. When the nurse asked if he would be upset if she was a bit late, she replied that he no longer knew who she was, that he had not recognized her in five years now. The nurse was surprised, and asked her why, if her husband didn't know who she was, she went every morning faithfully for the breakfast.

The elderly woman smiled and said, "He doesn't know me, but I still know who he is." The nurse with tears in her eyes said to herself, "That is the kind of love I want in my life."

True love is neither physical, nor romantic. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be.

The Gospel this weekend is a command by Jesus to practice love. And the love He urges us to practice is the kind of love that is found in this story of the woman who raced to have breakfast with her husband who was a patient in a nursing home.

But we don't have to look to this story to find the example of selfless love that Jesus places before us in the Gospel. All that we have to do is to look at our mothers and the love that they lavish upon us. For the woman in the story is nothing more than a continuation of a mother's love that is not limited by the care she has for her children but extends to all the members of her family both immediate and distant.

How lovely that each year we honor our mothers. How much better it would be if we honored them not only today but also every day knowing that the gratitude we should offer them each day of our lives does not even begin to compare with the sumptuous love they give each of us throughout our entire lives.

Jesus said: "love one another as I have loved you." You want to know what that love is all about? Look to your mothers and thank God each day that you have been so blessed with such an incomparable gift.