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For Sunday, May 10, 2015

A Message of Love

This Sunday's Scripture Readings

6th Sunday of Easter

<http://new.usccb.org/bible/readings/051015.cfm>

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17



It's been a brutal couple of weeks.

Baltimore [has been burning](#). Nepal is [in ruins](#), with tens of thousands lost. Israel remains uneasy and [on alert](#). And the city of Tel Aviv was rocked by protests [amid charges of police brutality](#).

At times, it seems we are entering a new Age of Anxiety, with the earth literally shifting below our feet.

And yet, at this very moment, the Gospel cries out a recurring refrain that stands in stark contradiction to the world we know—a message, it seems, of defiance.

It is, in fact, a message of love.

"This is my commandment," Jesus says in this Sunday's Gospel: "love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

During these last weeks before we celebrate the Ascension, that theme of love has been heard

again and again, echoing in the Scriptures at Sunday Mass. We could almost consider it Christ's last will and testament: what we need to hear before he leaves the earth and sends the Holy Spirit to continue what he began.

We might find that message of love hard to swallow in our own times, when love seems to be so absent and hatred and fear are so rampant.

But that is precisely why we need to embrace that message so completely—and commit ourselves to living it so fully.

The Gospel is not only countercultural; it is also very often counterintuitive. The dead rise, the blind see, those who would be stoned are set free to start over. This is not the world we know, but it is one we pray to make real and present to others—the kingdom of heaven.

As we pray for our troubled world, and pray for victims of injustice and violence and war, we pray that we may make that kingdom a reality in how we live and, most especially, in how we love.

Dcn. Greg Kandra

PRAYER

Let us ask God
to grant that violence be overcome by the power of love,
that opposition give way to reconciliation
and that the desire to oppress be transformed
into the desire for forgiveness, justice and peace...

May peace be in our hearts
so that they are open to the action of God's grace...
Amen.

—Pope Benedict XVI, *Prayer for Justice, General Audience, December 19, 2007.*

NOTICES

CRS RESPONDS TO EARTHQUAKE IN NEPAL

As the official overseas relief and development agency of the USCCB and a member of Caritas International and the National Catholic Development Conference, CRS is leading relief efforts for victims of the recent earthquake in Nepal. To donate to CRS' efforts, click [here](#). LPi has also created a bulletin cover to promote these efforts. LPi customers can find the cover by searching Art & Media Portal for keyword "Nepal"; the cover is also available to other parishes via www.4LPi.com.

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

The annual Catholic Communication Campaign Collection will be taken up in many dioceses on the weekend of May 17. Collection resources are available from the USCCB website at: <http://usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/catholic-communication-campaign/collection/>. This national collection supports the dissemination of great Catholic content in a variety of media formats.

LITURGICAL NOTE, Vigil of the Ascension

The revised *Roman Missal* contains a vigil Mass for the Ascension that can be used for evening Masses preceding the feast. This applies to both Wednesday, May 13 (for dioceses in which the Ascension is observed on Thursday as a holy day of obligation), and to Saturday, May 16 (most dioceses in the United States).

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