

BELIEVING IN JESUS CHRIST ASSURES US ETERNAL LIFE

Five young people were asked if their parents loved them. In response, all of them agreed that their parents loved them. Then they were asked why they thought so. Three of them pointed out that they believed that their parents loved them because their parents provided for their needs. One of them agreed that her parents loved her because they corrected her whenever she did something wrong. The remaining one pointed out that he believed that his parents loved him because they told him that they loved him. These young people believed that their parents loved them because of what their parents did. Do you believe that God loves us unconditionally? Our Gospel reading today points out what God did to show that He loves us unconditionally. It is out of love that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to us (John 3: 14-). Jesus Christ is the gift of God Himself to us. In Jesus Christ, God made Himself available to serve us. The coming of Jesus Christ benefits us though at the expense of Jesus' pain and suffering. Jesus' suffering, death, teachings, miracles, the Eucharist, and association with human beings are expressions of the Father's love and His love for us. In the Gospel reading the last two weekends (Mark 9:2-10), God the Father told us to listen to Jesus. **IT IS BY LISTENING TO JESUS, BELIEVING IN HIM, AND DOING WHAT HE TELLS US THAT WE SHALL BE SAVED OR HAVE ETERNAL LIFE AT THE END OF OUR EARTHLY LIFE.** In our world today, amid all the crises or challenges, we need to trust or believe in God's love. A child was confused about why God allows people to suffer despite His unconditional love. Whatever God allows to come our way is for our good. Sometimes, God teaches us the hard way. In the Second reading today (2 Chronicles 36), the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people displeased God with their infidelities, abominations, and pollution of God's Temple. God, out of His unconditional love, did not destroy them, rather sent His messengers to warn them. They mistreated the messengers and as a result, God punished them. God punishes sinners to bring them back to Himself. God allowed most of the crises or challenges in the world now to redirect us to Himself. "God's love is perfect love, unconditional love, given to us freely to do with as we please and to respond to as we please" (Fr Jerry). When we responded negatively to God's unconditional love by sinning, God did not leave us to perish, rather out of His unconditional love saved us in the person of Jesus Christ. God's unconditional love is evident in the saving mission of Jesus. Jesus is our savior, and we need to have faith in Him. We need to always draw ourselves close to Him. We express our belief or faith in Jesus Christ or come close to Him by abiding by His teachings and participating in or receiving the Sacraments He instituted for our good. By loving others as He instructed, we attract Jesus' attention and move closer to Him to be able to tell Him our challenges or predicaments. We insert ourselves into Jesus' life and make Him insert His life into our lives when we receive or participate in the Sacraments which were instituted by Him either directly or indirectly. Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist or Holy Mass at the Last Supper. At Mass, we relive or commemorate the Last Supper experience. Jesus comes to us in the Holy Communion to live in us, to be with us always. His Presence affects our lives if we believe that He is present in our lives. Despite Jesus' presence in our lives, we need to always believe that He can help us move our lives toward the right path and call upon Him often to assist us. Every Christian needs to pray more with faith in this perilous time. Our world is turning into something else. We need to believe in Jesus Christ who told Nicodemus that, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man

be lifted up so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15). MAY
GOD HELP US TO HAVE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST AND LOVE OTHERS AS HE LOVED US, AMEN.