

DOING THE WILL OF GOD.

Everything one does, to some extent, has something or someone who motivates it. Some people attend Mass because they feel that they are obligated to attend Mass on the weekends. There are those who attend Mass to please God. I think most of us attend Mass to encounter Christ in the Word and in the Holy Eucharist. People have different reasons for attending Mass. GOD WANTS TO BE THE REASON WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO, THAT IS, TO PLEASE HIM AND TO ENCOUNTER HIM. When we give alms or assist those in need, let our reasons for being charitable be to please God or to abide by His will for us or to encounter Him. In the Gospel reading last weekend (John 10:27), Jesus pointed out that we, His sheep, hear His voice and follow Him. We are here in the Church because we heard Jesus' voice within us telling us to attend Mass. **At the Last Supper, Jesus requested that we keep commemorating His Last Supper celebration or sacrifice in His memory.** This is what we do in the Mass. WE HEARD JESUS VOICE AND FOLLOWED HIM TO THE CHURCH. Look around you and see those that came to the Church to please God and encounter Jesus in the Word and in the Eucharist. This weekend, more than ten million people will go to Church to worship God and listen to Jesus. If all these people, after listening to Jesus will make a little effort to keep doing what Jesus requested from us, the world will be a better place to live. CELEBRATING THE HOLY EUCHARIST AND KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS OF LOVE ARE PARTS OF GOD'S WILL FOR US. Every one of us would like his or her will to be respected when we are no longer on earth. I wonder how sad some of us would feel if our will was not respected after our death by the people we spent all our lives caring for. JESUS CARED FOR US, HE SUFFERED AND DIED TO BUILD A GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND GOD THE FATHER. **The only thing we can do to reciprocate His love is to do His will.** In the Gospel reading today (John 13:34-35), Jesus, knowing that His time for being present in the world in a bodily form was short, commanded us to love others as He loved us. Already in the Old Testament, God commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Leviticus 19:18). The term, love, was understood differently by people, that is why Jesus pointed out to us in the Gospel reading today **to love others as He loved us.** He did not tell us to love as we want. THE LOVE WHICH JESUS TALKED ABOUT HAS TO DO WITH THE WELFARE OF OTHERS WITHOUT COUNTING ITS COSTS OR LOVING OTHERS MORE THAN SELF. "Jesus' kind of love is probably closer to the love that a healthy, loving parent has for a baby than to the love found in any kind of relationship" (Fr. Jerry). GOOD PARENTS LOVE THEIR BABIES UNCONDITIONALLY. "We can love babies passionately and protectively even though they can't help us, are expensive, a lot of work, messy and can disrupt the entire household day and night with their needs and demands" (Fr. Jerry). **This is the kind of love Jesus wants us to extend to others, especially those whose lifestyles we do not like.** Jesus loves both the righteous and sinners. GOD DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE IN LOVING US. In local news some years ago, a man was asked why he rescued another person's child from a burning building. He told his listeners that he did it out of compassion, that he did not want the child to suffer and die. The welfare of this child motivated the man to rescue the child, he did not think about his own life before attempting to rescue the child. The man pointed out that whenever he remembers this child, he is always proud of himself and happy too. JESUS DID A SIMILAR THING FOR US. Jesus humbled Himself and took human form to be able to suffer and die for our own good. LOVE IS WHAT YOU DO OR SAY FOR THE WELFARE OF OTHERS. Love is not sweet all the time; it is sometimes painful. Out of love for God and others, in the first reading today, Paul and

Barnabas traveled to many cities or places proclaiming the Word of God to the people and strengthening their faith. It was not easy for them, they encountered problems. From the hardships they experienced, Paul exhorted his fellow disciples to persevere in faith by telling them that “it is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God”. To love as Jesus taught us, we must encounter some difficulties. SOMETIMES, YOUR LOVE MAY BE MISUNDERSTOOD, NOT APPRECIATED, NOT RECIPROCATED, OR REJECTED. Jesus wants us to continue doing His will for God’s sake and that of His kingdom despite the difficulties we experience. MAY GOD HELP US IN DOING HIS WILL, AMEN.