

HOMILY VI SUNDAY OF EASTER SEASON YEAR A
IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS

Brothers and sisters... How rich are the words of Jesus during this Easter season... Every time we read the Gospel, **it feels as, if a new door to hope were opening**... Because while the world often becomes accustomed to speaking about fear, uncertainty, or tiredness...

The risen Christ continues to speak to us about life... about love... about presence... about hope... about the way forward... The risen Christ continues to give us **instructions for life**... *If you love me, you will keep my commandments*...

And perhaps, here we can easily misunderstand... because we might think that Jesus is simply talking about following rules... about obeying commands...

But no! Jesus is speaking about something much deeper... He is speaking about **a new way of living**... Because when someone truly loves... they no longer act simply because **“they have to”** or because **“it’s commanded”** ... they begin to act from the heart...

And then! the well-being of others matters... truth matters... unity matters... forgiveness matters...

That is why love, *which is the commandment Jesus gives us*, is never something theoretical... love becomes concrete... visible... everyday...

And that, is exactly what we see in the first Christian communities... They weren't perfect... there were also differences... questions... difficulties... But something kept them united... **The joy of knowing that Christ had risen**... and was still alive in their midst...

That is why they proclaimed... that is why they served... **that is why they continued walking together**...

And what is interesting in all of this, is that in the middle of ordinary daily life... **the promise of the Holy Spirit also begins to appear with strength**...

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Jesus knows that on our own, we will not be able... He knows that loving, will always be difficult...

That forgiving is difficult...

That living together is difficult...

And that, is why He promises to remain... ***I will not leave you orphans...*** What a phrase so full of tenderness... so full of consolation...

My dear friends... we aren't alone trying to live the Gospel... the very Spirit of God accompanies us...

Brother and sisters... Today the Lord invites us to live our faith with a little more coherence... to love a little better... to listen more... to be patient... to seek unity... *And also...* not to become discouraged when not everything turns out perfectly...

Because we aren't a community of perfect people... we're a community of people who continue learning... correcting themselves... forgiving... and growing in love...

And that is! what makes us visible signs of the living Christ, who acts in our midst...

Dear friends... Every time someone loves... every time someone forgives... every time someone begins again... every time someone chooses to do good... **there!** The Risen One continues making Himself present...

Brothers and sisters, let us ask the Lord today... to give us a heart open to the Holy Spirit... and a faith that doesn't remain only in words... but becomes, every day in a concrete way of living and loving.

Fr. Moices Rafael C.