

## RENEWED IN LOVE

*On this Fifth Sunday of Easter, through the Gospel according to St. John, we discover how Jesus is preparing the hearts of his disciples, because the moment of his separation is approaching.*

*Once Jesus is Risen and has accompanied his disciples for a time, he must return to the Father's house; he must depart to take his rightful place at the Father's right hand. This will be the moment of the Ascension.*

*This is why Jesus shares with his disciples a very important legacy, a commandment: I give you a new commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you.*

*The novelty of this commandment is to love in the style of Christ: unconditionally, totally, without exception.*

*But why speak of a commandment?*

*Because unfortunately, today, love has been disfigured, damaged, and sickened, and we have limited ourselves to loving only those who love us, those who think or are like us. Therefore, Christ invites us to return to God's original plan.*

*Since we have been created by love and for love, we must return to our true selves. Christ invites us to go beyond.*

*But one cannot love like Christ without Christ, therefore, we must allow ourselves to be loved by God and with that love love others. He who loves is the presence of Christ.*

*Jesus affirmed: "By this love you will know that you are my disciples." To live in love is to accept the triumph of Christ's Resurrection, because in Christ, human beings are renewed.*

*Today, the world needs this renewal in love. Following the example of the first disciples, who were undeterred by persecution, obstacles, or rejection, we too must find in Christ our driving force for love.*

*It would help us to ask ourselves, what can I do to be the presence of Christ in my family? Up until now, what has prevented me from showing my love for others?*

*Let us pray through the intercession of Mary Most Holy, Mother of Love, that the Holy Spirit may renew us interiorly, and may we make this command of our Master, our Savior, possible. AMEN*