

5th Graders Mass
March 5, 2019

Let me ask you all a very important question. Are you ready? What do you like to do for fun? *(They'll answer sports, or video games, or movies...)* Oh! Those are very fun things. Now, let me ask you another question. What would you pay for the very best video game ever? Would you be willing to pay for it, work for it, and give up other stuff for it? Probably. It is the **best** video game ever, right? It must be worth it. This is a very important truth about us human beings. If something is important to us, we will give up a lot for it. We do what it takes for those things and for those people who are important to us.

Sometimes though, we forget how important some people are. We sometimes take them for granted. Sometimes we do that with our parents and our siblings, don't we? Sometimes we do not give the time and love we should to these people who are so important we call them family. This is a big deal. It's something to think about, my friends. Remember how much we would give to love those who are important to us.

It is even more of a big deal to love God! Think about that. God gave us everything that we are. He loves us so much that we can't even describe it. Isn't that amazing? God loves us more than we can even understand. This is why we can make sense of what Jesus says in the Gospel today. Jesus talks about "giving up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands" for the sake of God. That's a lot to give up. That's everything, right. Our whole self.

This makes sense though because of how much God loves us and shares with us. God has shared his whole self with us already. And when we join him we get so much more back than we can ever understand. The way Jesus puts it, we get back “a hundred times more.”

Giving all of ourselves is not easy though, is it? Jesus also talks about persecutions and putting ourselves last after everyone else. This is hard! But it is worth it. What does this way of giving of ourselves do? Like Pope Francis says: “It opens before us the way to eternal life” (29 July 2016, World Youth Day – Krakow). We join God in the way that he loves, and we get to share with God in the way that he lives! That is truly awesome. As we grow up, God shows us new ways to love. He is calling you to follow him, as future husbands and wives, future priests and religious sisters and brothers, and all sort of other ways of loving God and the Church. Listen to where God is calling you and remember that it is worth it.

We are praying for you, and we love you. May God bless you all, my sisters and brothers. I ask for the prayers of Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, for you. As we start Lent tomorrow, may we all grow in love and giving of ourselves for one another.