



"Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:33-35

Feb 2015: Reflection - (John 13:33-35)

The mystery of the Incarnation or the reality that Jesus, the son of God assumed a body and opted to live in the world and in history makes a radical difference in the attitude of a Christian. Many of the ways of this world are beautiful in God's sight too and something very special about the path of Jesus is that He makes use of these delightful ways of the world to lead us to the Heavenly Father. One such splendid path of holiness is good relationships.

Every individual is created for love and friendship. In God's plan, the road to perfection leads one to a deep relationship with God and also with one another. We will miss the true meaning of the message of Christ if we forget the centrality of love and fellowship. We may pray well, evangelize people and use charisms powerfully but if we do not live a life of love (I Cor. 13:2) the Lord will declare He never knew us (Mt. 7: 21 – 23, Lk. 13:26, 27). The saints discovered this simple yet profound secret of spiritual perfection and they tirelessly followed the path of love. The challenge is ever new and the word of God repeatedly exhorts us to belong to a body of disciples where we practice the path of loving one another and also challenge one another to this path of love.

At the turn of the millennium Pope St. John Paul II highlighted the need for a spirituality of fellowship building and suggested many practical steps for it in *Novo Millennio Inuente*: “To make the Church the home and the school of communion that is the great challenge facing us in the millennium which is now beginning, if we wish to be faithful to God’s plan and respond to the world’s deepest yearnings. ... we need to promote a spirituality of communion, making it the guiding principle of education wherever individuals and Christians are formed” (43). At a time when people are becoming more and more success oriented and even spirituality tends to become an aid to personal success, turning to Christian fellowship becomes all the more significant.

And how do we put into practice the Lord’s solemn parting commandment? Firstly, we have to belong to a specific body of zealous Christians and that has to become part of our name and identity. Then we have to rediscover our community as something that fulfills many of our significant needs and dreams. Slowly we have to realize that it is not just our duty, but rather that we cannot live without it. For this, a community has to grow into a place of shared life, partaking in various cultural elements. Of course, mutual discovery and appreciation makes a true fellowship a joyful reality and a home to practice love. Finally, a Christian is impelled to go forth into a life mission through a wholesome fellowship.

In Jesus Youth we realize that being an active part of a lively fellowship wherein we “stir up one another to love and good works” (Heb. 10:24) is the most practical way to help one live a life of holiness and practice the six pillars of the movement. May the Spirit of God help us respond to the earnest desire of the Lord for each one of us!