

19. The Greatest Love for Your Friends Is to Give Your Life for Them

“A grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it is dropped in to the ground and dies. If it does die, then it produces many grains (John 12: 24).”

There is nobody in this world who is as lowly as those who cannot love anybody.

For, love springs up from a sincere heart and we can love as long as we are alive.

The greatest love for your friends is to give your life for them.

The Greatest Love of Kkottongnae: Forlorn Families

Kkottongnae families sing “I am happy” even though they do not own anything, do not know anything, and do not even have health. The dying Kkottongnae families who are sick in their body and mind pass away from this world showing the greatest love at the last moment of death. A beggar found at Eum-seong Station, who had been hospitalized at Kkottongnae Hospital, was facing his last moment by a testicular cancer. The beggar asked a voluntary worker, “Now I’m afraid that I’m near my death. What should I do?” The voluntary worker answered the dying patients question, “If you want to go to heav-

en, you have to forgive your neighbors first. Then you have to repent your sin. And lastly you have to love your neighbors.”

Then, the beggar asked again, “There were many people who had despised me when I was begging. I already forgave them. I repented my sins sincerely which I had committed as an alcoholic. How come this dying body can love his neighbors?” The voluntary worker answered, “If you have just an earnest mind, you can love. Anybody alive can offer love. If you can make a promise to donate your eyes to blind neighbors even among your pains of death rather than you pray for your own recovery, you are already practicing the greatest love.” The beggar who had been deserted and had lived as the least person promised to donate his eyes. To the question of the voluntary worker, “Do you need anything else?” he answered, “No, not at all. I don’t need anything more. I really appreciate your help. I am also thankful for those who have taken care of the lowly one like me. I will never forget you in my future life.” Before long, the brother fell asleep into death quietly. Two blinds could see the light by the love of the beggar, and the warm breath of the poor brother became a



Fr. Oh Woong-Jin and Kkottongnae family members

light in the darkness and shed its light in the early morning of Kkottongnae.

A Story of a Pediatricist, Jeanne Mollas' Greatest Love

An Italian pediatricist became pregnant of her 4th child, but she was diagnosed as having a uterine cancer. Her families as well as doctors recommended her to have an abortion to save the mother's life, but she insisted to keep and bear the baby, saying **they don't have a right to judge and choose between the life of herself and the baby in her womb**. As expected, she passed away from the complication of the cancer after she gave birth to a baby girl. Some people said she was foolish. However, the mother did not follow the worldly knowledge but God's teaching: **"In order to be really wise you should become a fool (1 Corinthians 3: 18)."** Her daughter, who was born in place of her mother's life, became a doctor and is succeeding her mother's work. Born with the greatest love, she is living a valuable life offering love to her neighbors which her mother could not fulfill in her lifetime.

One of the Kkottongnae Members, Kim Mi-Jeong's Love at the Risk of Her Life: Mother's Love Won the Greatest Love

Kim Mi-Jeong Agnes was a voluntary worker as well as a Kkottongnae member. As a teacher who graduated from a college of education, she had taken care of Kkottongnae families devotedly making a book of members and collecting funds by herself since the beginning of 1980s at the initial stage of Kkottongnae. She used to tell her mother to live together at a house near Kkottongnae. She wanted to live a

life of serving as a nun, but her mother did not allow her to be a nun and had her get married. She married at the age of 29, but she had a miscarriage of her first baby and became sterile with ovarian cyst and gallstone trouble. However, she happened to be pregnant of the second baby and the ovarian cyst was healed miraculously. Her delight was beyond description.

Agnes used to tell her baby in her womb caressing her belly like caressing a baby, "This baby was surely given by God. God presented this baby to me who was not able to be pregnant. This baby is Raphael. Raphael, you are sure to be a father." She named the baby as Raphael, and prayed for it sincerely. But when she was into her sixth month of pregnancy, she was diagnosed as toxemia of pregnancy with a swollen body and high blood pressure. Doctors suggested her to have an abortion though it was a little late for doing it, saying that it was the only way to save her life. However, she firmly refused, saying "How come I can kill my baby?... Even if I only saw someone else have an abortion, my heart would be crushed with pains. I will keep this baby even though I have to die." A baby boy was born, and he was christened as Raphael, which his mother had chosen. However, "Mother, I will come out soon from the operation room with a new-born baby" was her last words left to her mother.

When Raphael was still in her womb, Agnes used to ask her mother putting her hands on her belly like this: "Mother, who is going to raise this baby?"

Then her mother casually answered: "Who else will raise it except you?"

Not until did she pass away, her mother realized what kind of person her daughter had been and how kind-heartedly she had lived her life.

Many people visited to mourn the death of a young mother of 31 years old. Everybody consoled her mother, saying they had got her help before, and she was so kind that God specially took her early. Raphael is growing up as a healthy boy. The mother's greatest love at the risk of her life for her son will surely bear a beautiful fruit. We are all witnesses of every bit of this case.

“The greatest love for your friends is to give your life for them.”

Philippines Kkottongnae

