

## 22. Justice Cannot Embrace Love but Love Can Embrace Justice

Both merits and defects exist together in any community in the world.

If we see anything that has defects in it through the eyes of justice only but without love, we will judge it a lot and as a result criticize it. However, if we see the same thing through the eyes of love, we cover up the defects and fill up the deficiency ourselves, instead of judging and criticizing it. Fr. Oh Woong-Jin, the founder of Kkottongnae, once said that justice cannot embrace love, but love can embrace justice.

Justice without love is not truth, since truth is love.

### **The Love of Pope John Paul II**

The message of love from the recently deceased Pope, who traveled around the whole world throughout his life, was one of forgiveness and reconciliation. Pope John Paul II survived a gunshot through a huge operation. On the day of discharge from the hospital, the first place he visited was a prison. There he met the Islamic criminal who had attempted to murder him and forgave him in the name of the Lord. He embraced the murderer with love, not judging him only with justice.

He appealed for the truth without compro-

missing with injustice saying, "Communism must disappear. Let us pray until it disappears." However, he, who practiced love on behalf of the weak and showed true forgiveness in person, reconciled the whole world into one through his life and death. We can all confirm that the whole world, even the other religions, mourned for his death sincerely at the time of his funeral.

### **Who Abandoned These People?**

The reason why many people are homeless and abandoned these days is because those who should have been loving them did not do so. Consequently, someone else is supposed to love them on behalf of those who should have loved them in order to treat the disaster caused by a deficiency of love.

Kkottongnae has brought in and taken care of more than 13,000 abandoned people in the last 29 years. Among them, some were returned to their family through our efforts, but some were brought back into Kkottongnae again because their family had rejected them. Kkottongnae has been doing this on behalf of those who were supposed to do that but did not. However, Kkottongnae does not judge,



Archbishop Chang In Nam, the Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh and Fr. Oh Woong-Jin were greeting the Holy Father, John Paul II.

criticize, or blame them but “helps others just as we would help ourselves” in accordance with the spirit of the founder.

The most regrettable moments of living together with Kkottongnae family are the times when we have to see some family member whose illness is suddenly aggravated after the alleviation of symptoms followed by a long period of treatment. This occurs when they have experienced dismissal by their families or get the feeling of being unwelcome, seen as a burden to their families or relatives who they have always longed to meet. This experience gives them psychological trauma leading to the aggravation of their physical illness. As a result it takes a much longer time and more effort for them to barely recover again.

Whenever they feel the pangs of longing for their home and family, who blindly do not accept them, we feel the same pangs with them as well.

Blaming the family who abandoned the patient in front of the bruised patient is never of help in alleviating the illness. We know from our experience that it is of no use to blame the selfish family who turned away the patient to change the situation.

Instead of feeling regret about those who abandoned them and made the patients sick, it has been the life history of Kkottongnae to fill up that emptiness with the love they were not given.

### **Merits Are to Be Succeeded and Developed, and Defects Are to Be Compensated for**

Those companies whose employees have

once paid a visit to Kkottongnae report that their offices have become places that have a more peaceful atmosphere with better industrial relations, more productivity, and less labor strikes after their visit to Kkottongnae. The love Kkottongnae is practicing inspired the company to endeavor to develop their merits and make up for their defects with sacrifices, which lead them to understand, accept, and praise each other.

The way to help make this world a beautiful place is not to blame, criticize, or impose on others but to sacrificially compensate for their faults.

It is the same with homes. The reason why we have a rapidly increased divorce rate today is that we have lost our love by not enduring and making up for our spouses' defects but by blaming them only.

Justice without love does not change any person but only weakens and splits the community. To have a healthy community without split homes, workplaces, groups or society, we have to succeed developing the merits and make up for the defects of individuals or groups with our sacrifice.

### **Arsonist of Junglimdong Church**

A homeless person who despised the Holy Mother Mary set a church on fire.

Unable to sleep, due to agony, Father Oh Woong-Jin prayed for the arsonist. He said, “The fire in the church was put out, but the fire of hatred in the arsonist was not.” The next day, with the parish priest, he visited the homeless person in prison to help put out the fire of hatred within him. He forgave the arsonist, embracing him, and pleaded for his

leniency to the officials.

As soon as he was freed from the prison, he first paid a visit to Kkottongnae and apologized for his behavior and confirmed that the blind hatred in his mind had disappeared.

When a person sins, a lot of people suffer. Punishing the guilty man does not get rid of the troubles. Somebody should sacrifice to pay the dues and atone for the sins in order to clear away the troubles and help change the world into a beautiful place.

*Justice cannot embrace love, but love can embrace justice.*

A volunteer looking after family members of Kkottongnae

