

23. Love Can Be Offered by Everybody but Not Anybody

“God is love. Love is from God. Those who love are born from God, and they know who God is (1 John 4: 7).”

God is love.

I would like to practice love with my whole life even though I am a feeble person, if I can take the pain away from those who are God’s valuable and lovely children.

My biggest wish in life is to love. God loves us so much that He sent his only Son to us, who suffered on our behalf, and finally took death for our sins. As such, how can I not dedicate myself before God as an offering of thanks?

No amount of money, knowledge, or technology can make us united as one. However, the love, which our Jesus Christ taught us and



proved to us by dying for us, united us with God. And owing to the love, we can share pleasure gathering all together in this blessed place.

Love is like a flowing river. Nobody can stop the flow of love.

Love can be offered by everybody, but not anybody. When there is love within our hearts, we do not hate our neighbor for his/her fault; rather, we try to take the blame for the sin on behalf of the neighbor not having painful hatred. Love springs up when we forgive and cover the faults of our neighbors; love occurs when we are willing to die for neighbors. To keep myself, my family, all the people, church, and races alive, we have to love. Do you want to be loved? If you want to be loved, make an effort to love with all your heart.

We all can love. Everybody can love. There is no feeble enough person who cannot love:

However humble, poor, starving, alienated, despised, severely ill or suffered they are, or however close they are sitting in the face of death, they can all love. **Love springs up from the sincere heart. That's why we all can love.**

On the day of celebrating the commencement of the House of John (for the homeless) and of Salvation (for the elderly), more than 30 thousands supporting members of the community gathered for the special Mass for the occasion



As Jesus said that the biggest love is to die for our brother, a person who suffers and dies on behalf of his/her spouse and child is the very person who practices God's love. According to a newspaper article in 1985, 8,840 Korean couples sought divorce that year, most of whom argued that they did so because they do not love each other anymore even though they had married because of love.

Children's internal conflict due to a destroyed family is a factor that makes society unstable, and furthermore could even result in crippling a life who is unable to love.

The beginning of time and the legacy of Adam and Eve have shown us how humans used freedom wrongly, struggled to own rather than love, and conquered in order to own, and finally ended their lives knowing only how to control and take over. In the end, they could not own but were owned and could not reign but were reigned: They ended their lives tragically as our ancestors did with original sin after living a life like a beggar kneeling down before a devil.

Even at this very moment, if we only keep asking for things from God and depend on our neighbors, we become a living beggar who will inevitably be brought to Kkottongnae.

Today, at least 15 people will be left back here after 45 thousand crowds go back. Last year there were 13 people abandoned after 30 thousand visited here. We pray that you would be full of God's grace in your mind and would like to offer love.

How did Jesus Christ live in this world? Did he attempt to reign? Did he try to own? He never attempted to own or reign, but offered love to us. He even gave us the last

drop of his blood until his death on the cross to get rid of the suffering and sins by dying on our behalf, after living a life of healing the ill, giving bread to the hungry, forgiving the sinned, giving hope to the hopeless, and reviving the dead. He loved us with all his heart.

At last he became a King of all people, owning and ruling the whole world, and took the glory of resurrection.

God did great things through this blessed place where we are gathered today. He revealed himself in the beauty of nature. The flame of the Holy Spirit is spreading. He is present here, saying "I give my love, pleasure, and peace to all of you: faith to those who do not believe; true love to those who do not have love. I give my holy life to you who would like to live in the Holy Spirit, since my Lord and Father, God, stays in the place where love dwells."

Everybody can love momentarily. The poor miss our helping hands. They miss our warm hearts. They miss our unceasing love.

This beautiful Kkottongnae, which has grown with the help of your warm hearts, brought together by help of God, is now becoming a hope to the poor and a hope to people who love.

May the Lord receive glory and praise, as we give praise and thanks to you, since our valuable helping hands are doing so much, saving the poor from death even today.

May God give wisdom, skill, and strong will to the political leaders who are working in the Congress to carry out their job with true love for our people. We also pray to God for the realization of love for the unification of South and North Korea, building up world

peace according to your will.

Finally, we pray for all of you, who are attending this ceremony and giving warm helping hands ceaselessly, to become a blessed family with our Lord's Holy Spirit and have perpetual blessings in your home.

Thank you.

(From Fr. Oh's homily on October 15, 1986)

The House of Charity for homeless women

