

SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)
Readings: Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

Do any of you give Valentine Cards? (SHOW ONE) If you do – you show that person you like them.
Legend of St. Valentine - - priest of Rome who married persecuted Christians until caught and Martyred

When I was dating Ginni I would send her letters (Love Letters). Paul to Corinthians was a love letter
Corinthians were not getting along – division – and Paul wanted them to live together in peace. So, Paul wrote this letter about the kind of love God has for us

“Eye has not seen, and hear has not heard, and it has not entered into the human heart what God has prepared for those who love Him” IMAGINE - **God’s love is beyond our comprehension**

To be a disciple, Jesus tells us it is not enough to do what the Law tells us to do.
We keep the Law not just through our behavior, but also through our attitudes and values.

For Jesus, we cannot separate our relationship with God and our relationship with people.
If we cannot find God in our brothers and sisters -- we cannot say that we really love God.
The law says, "Do not kill." But Jesus says we must not even get angry or use insulting words with others.
LISTEN -- If we don't respect a person who is loved by God AND for whom Jesus will sacrifice his life, we can't say we respect God.

Life and worship cannot be separated: each influences the other. Yet, how often do we piously go to church even though we have deeply hurt another person and need to reconcile with him or her?

That is the meaning of the sign of peace which we share with others before sharing in the communion.
It would be great to make a point of giving the sign of peace to those who we have dislike.

Lots of us feel that if we just keep the Commandments we are good Catholics.
Often I am asked, "Is this a sin?" Is it mortal or venial? If it is "only" a venial sin, then I can do it.

True Christians do not ask whether something is legal or illegal. They love God, they love Jesus, & they love their brothers and sisters. Their only concern is how they can serve and love them more and more.
This is how we build the Kingdom of God.

It is not a question of law; it is not a question of what do I have to do. It is a question of how much more I get to do to grow the Kingdom.

With that said – we are tempted – we are confronted by evil:
So how do we overcome sin and temptation? Jesus says, “If it causes you to sin – cut it off, throw it away”
Jesus is saying ‘If it causes you to sin – **get rid of it!**’
For some of us its alcohol For some, Sex For some of us it’s the friends we hang out with
Friends that lead us into sin are not friends – get rid of them!
Whatever leads you into sin – get it out of your life!

Besides avoiding sin – we also need to grow virtues PRAY SCRIPTURE READ COMMUNITY

There is a battle going on for each of us – a battle between good and evil
Through the cross J has won the battle
Now it’s up to us to accept the victory
We have the forgiveness
Now we can share it with each other