

Revealing Christ

This time we will reflect on the grace to reflect God's love to each other and to bear with each other. By drawing the attention to basic principles of the imitation of Christ in our daily lives, Father Kentenich brings home to the couples how these two graces: to reflect God for each other and bear with each can practically look like.

Well, how did Christ love people? He says clearly: I give you a *new* command, that as I have loved you, so you also should love one another (comp. Jn 13:34). What is *new* in this commandment? How did Christ love people? The commandment: You shall love your neighbor! also existed in the Old Testament (comp. Lev 19:18). Now, how was Christ's love for people different from the Old Testament love? He surrendered everything. He even surrendered his life for others.

How must I love my partner - as husband, as wife? Isn't it so, if we see one another in the light of faith, then I obviously must be prepared to surrender everything for the partner (April 17, 1961).

You see, such (an) old popular proverb is often very profound. It is backed by much life experience. Of course, the issue is that we are *genuine* Christians, *genuine* Catholics. Naturally, if we are superficial Christians, superficial Catholics, then this means nothing.

You see, such a simple, plain example; I think that I told it to you years ago: A street urchin in London wanted to earn a few cents and looked for a way to get people to buy. He went and bought some pies. Then he went to the street corner and solemnly offered his goods for sale, as such boys know how to do. However, (he) cheated a little. He shouted: Fresh pies! Fresh pies!

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When the passers-by bought and started to eat (they were) immediately disappointed. They screamed at the boy; Boy, they are not fresh; you lied! The boy knew how to handle the situation. I don't want to say that he was a Jew¹; but he knew what to do. Then he used to say: Yes, they *are* not fresh; that *is* simply *their name!* I think we must see to it that not only our name is "fresh pie" but we are "fresh pie". That is, we must take care that not only our *name is* Christian, but that we *are* Christian, really *genuine* Christian. I think with this I essentially prepared what I want to tell you tonight. I want to say it that simply so that it will go more deeply into your head and heart (May 29, 1961).

Question for reflection:

- ❖ If we are not able to reveal Christ's image to one another, then to whom will we reveal the human features of God here on earth. Our children will learn more from our actions than from our words.

After reading these words from Father Kentenich, think for a moment of small instances in which apparently insignificant things may annoy us and therefore keep us from revealing Christ to one another.

Can you think of a point of the daily routine where you, as couple, need to emphasize more the attitude of bearing one another with love in order to reveal God's love?

¹Alluding to the business capabilities of Jews.