

When people look upon the Church, what do they see? Do they see and experience the Body of Christ reaching out to the world with mercy and compassion? Do they see judgment, hypocrisy, uncaring, rigid and closed hearts? We may preach openness and compassion but do our actions reflect it?

“This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13: 35

Woe to you who judge, yet cannot see the reflection of Christ in the face of another. Woe to you who hold the wisdom of your years with pride and not humility. Your motives are selfish and your kind thoughts our few. Take heed the example of the youth for they shall be your salvation. *“Amen I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven.” [MT 18:3].* Look to the wise elders for they know this is true. Put away your empty pride and humble yourselves, for you are not God and have no authority to pass judgment over another. In these middle years of your life you are at your weakest, you have thrown away your youthfulness, and have blinded yourself to wisdom, by your selfish and prideful ways. Surrender your life completely to God, cast off all pride. Humble yourself in the eyes of others. Only then will you be able to live a life worthy in the eyes of God.

“Being Church means being God’s people, in accordance with the great plan of his fatherly love. This means that we are to be God’s leaven in the midst of humanity. It means proclaiming and bringing God’s salvation into our world, which often goes astray and needs to be encouraged, given hope and strengthened on the way. The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.” Evangelii Gaudium 114

We are the eyes and hands of Christ; but who then does the world say that we are... How do we reflect the love, mercy and understanding of Christ as the face of the Church? Are we stuck in the monotony of devalued traditions that lose their meaning through our indifference of how they exist to serve all of God’s people? Do we as the Church of God live in order to embrace all the souls of the earth and welcome them into the Mystical Body of Christ?

Jesus,

*humble our hearts that we might know what it truly means to be the Body of Christ,
to reach out to others without passing judgment and expecting in return.*

Teach us the ways of your infinite and uncalculating love.

*Grant that we might share the goodness of your love with all your children,
especially those who are most in need.*

May all that we do be a reflection of your love.

AMEN

