



GOD'S LOVE CANNOT BE MEASURED BY MATERIALISM OR LIFE CHALLENGES

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ABUJA, NIGERIA -

The love of God for humanity is a divine affection that has no preference for any human person, cannot be quantified in material blessings or determined by the challenges experienced in life; the Director of Social Communications, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN), Rev. FR. Chris Anyanwu has declared.

The CSN Director made this remark in his homily at the celebration of the Mass on the sixth Sunday of Easter, at the St Gabriel Chaplaincy, Durumi, Abuja. Speaking on the theme the Love One Another As I have loved You, Fr. Anyanwu noted that the love of God for humanity is beyond comprehension and cannot be quantified by any dimension of human life.

The homilist told the congregation that God's love for is of equal dimension for every human being and more than the love we have for him, irrespective of our status in life. Using the readings of the day to expatiate his homily, F. Anyanwu stated that God has no favourite individuals or groups among us but loves us all equally.

His words: "God loves us uniquely. He does not love anyone more or less. His love is perfect and he loves everyone in a perfect way. He allows his rain of blessing to come over the just and the unjust alike (Matt 5: 45). He sends his Holy Spirit over all who come to him, even to the Gentiles, the pagans, the unbaptized."

Admonishing the faithful to love one another as God loves us, without consideration of differences and status, the CSN Director emphasized that love has no boundary, language or ethnic barrier. He stated further that the fact that some individuals are blessed with riches and wealth does not mean that they enjoy special favours from God; nor different challenges in life like poverty or suffering that afflict others connote hatred from God.

Giving the origin of love, Fr. Anyanwu declared: "In the second reading Saint John presents a good argument why we must love those around us. First, because God loved us first. Second because everything God created including us, was done out of love. Third because God is love himself. He who does not love does not belong to God. In other words, it is in the DNA of every person created in the image and likeness of God to love."

He continued: "My brothers and sisters, love will always move us beyond our boundaries. Love speaks all languages; it is a native of every race; it can be available in all religions. Love is the only bridge that can connect the whole humanity that is divided by the oceans of hatred, racism, religious differences, political parties, cultural backgrounds and individual linguistic differences. All it takes to change the face of the world is to begin loving the nearest person around you irrespective of ethnic or religious differences."

Pointing out that love is a bridge builder, Fr. Anyanwu urged the faithful to love one another, help one another, especially the poor, the marginalized and the needy, adding that God does not use the face to judge what we do in life but the heart. He added that according to the gospel reading of the day, Christ's new commandment to humanity is to love one another as God loves us and respect one another. He added that once we do God's wishes, he will continue to bless us, because his special love for us, among all He created made him to create us in his own image.

He concluded: "To love the way Jesus wants us to love, we must understand that it is very costly. It will cost us our time, our resources and sometimes our life. It entails enormous sacrifice. Love is the act of caring and giving and having someone best interest and well-being as a priority always. "Nobody needs love more than someone who doesn't seem to deserve it. If we wait for people to become available before we love them, we will wait forever."