Reflection for the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ Fr Euloge Kasine

Deuteronomy 7: 6-11; 2 John 4: 7-16; Matthew 11: 25-30

On this day when the Church celebrates the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ I would like you to meditate with me on "the love from God's heart". We believe that Jesus Christ was truly God and truly man. Jesus of Nazareth was God-man. He taught us how to do things from the heart and out of love.

For all the times we failed to act or react out of love, we confess and say: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Meditation on: The love from God's heart

Love is the other name of God. Saint John expresses this in these words "God is Love." In fact, Love is the nature of God. And love comes from God. God poured love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit that we have been given. We all drank the same Spirit of love so that our hearts may be like God's heart full of mercy, gentleness and kindness. "My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God."

The heart of Jesus Christ is for us the model of God's heart, which is gentle and kind. When Jesus Christ's heart was pierced with a spear there came out blood and water to purify and sanctify the entire world.

God's heart is a heart that purifies people from hatred so that they may be capable of true love. The true love is the one that leads a person to sacrifice for the protection and promotion of life. In fact, God's love for us was revealed when God sent his only Son so that we could have life through him. The heart of the Son reflects God's heart which contains God's message for the salvation of all.

Through the heart of the Son, Jesus Christ God transmits his message: "Love one another as I have loved you". God decided to express his love for us by sending his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away. The Son became at the same time the priest and the sacrifice so that we may be consecrated to God. Indeed, we are a people consecrated to the God of Jesus of Nazareth. And if we are consecrated to God we should let our hearts be moulded by God so that we may be gentle and kind in our actions and reactions.

The Lord poured his love into our hearts so that we may be able to receive his message of salvation and be subjected to his Holy will. The love of God is in our hearts so that we may become sons and daughters of God. And like, the Son, Jesus Christ we should learn to be bread for the world. To be bread here means to be a person capable of sacrifice for the well-being of all. "This is my body," says Jesus, take and eat for your salvation. This is my blood, take and drink for the New Covenant.

The New Covenant is in the logic of the New Commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." We will love one another by accepting sacrifices for the well-being of all. You may agree with me it is a sacrifice to stand up and speak out for the migrants, for the homeless, the marginalised of our societies and the oppressed in different areas of life.

Moses said to his people: "It was for love of you and to keep the oath he swore to your fathers that the Lord brought you out with his mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery." Yes, it is also for love of us that God continues to set us free from hatred so that we may love one another as he has loved us. He set us free so that we may be able to set our brothers and sisters free from oppression, violence and the like.

A person with God's heart he/she is capable of humbling himself or herself and becoming a servant of all. The Son of God, with a heart of God taught us how to be servants when he himself bowed down and washed his disciples' feet. "I have given you an example," he said, "that you should do as I have done to you" (Jn 15: 13). We are called to purify one another and not to kill one another.

God's heart is full of mercy, gentleness and kindness. Sacred heart of Jesus, have mercy on us for many times we have sinned against the New Commandment: **"Love one another as I have loved you."**

My dear people let us do things from the heart and out of love