

Jubilee Day Homily - June 19, 2010
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What energy! What joy! What love I see as I stand looking at you. Happy Jubilee!

Did you hear the message in the Gospel of John chosen for this celebration?

“Love one another....

People will know that you are my disciples by your love for one another.”

This is what our lives are about. It is what we jubilarians experience today,
all the love of the community poured out on us,

all of you loving us,

showing your love

by being here to celebrate Eucharist with us,

by preparing and serving a special meal (and cleaning up!),

by sending your greetings and gifts as messages of your love,

by being sisters to us.

Principle IV of *Response in Faith: Rule of Life* is **Our Law is the Living Christ**.

The principle is presented first with a quotation from Galatians (5:13-14):

Remember that you have been called to live in freedom...

Out of love place yourselves at one another's service.

The whole law has found its fulfillment in this one saying:

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Response in Faith continues:

Jesus gives us his Spirit of love, his law,

placing it deep in our hearts,

reminding us of the truth of who we are and who we are called to be.

The truth of who we are. Who we are:

women who have received love and who love others,

women who show our love in action—

in listening, in accompanying people, in service to them.

We are not here for ourselves. We are here because we responded to a call.

Dag Hammarskjold wrote about his call:

I don't know Who—or What—put the question.

I don't know when it was put.

I don't even remember answering.

But at some moment I did answer Yes to Someone—for Something—

and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful

and that, therefore, my life in self-surrender, had a goal.

Maybe your call to religious life was like that, maybe not. But each of us received a call from God to dedicate our lives in love to others, and to do it with this community.

“I wish to live this faith commitment in community among the people of God.”

This day is a celebration of our faith commitment,
a celebration of years of dedicated service to others,
a celebration of grace, of the Spirit of Jesus acting in us,
a celebration of gifts that we have received,
a celebration of love, of community, of sisterhood.

“God gave us sisters.” We are blessed with sisters. You, our sisters, are examples for us,
you teach us,
you raise questions to us,
you stand behind us to catch us or to push us,
and you love us along the way.

We are so grateful for our faith in God, for our call to religious life in this community.
We are so grateful to you, our sisters, for being examples to us, teaching us, raising
questions to us, standing behind us to catch us or push us all these years. And most
especially we are grateful to you for loving us all along the way.

We, the fifty-year jubilarians, today share with you a message that comes from our hearts
in this year of jubilee. *Response in Faith* says to us:
Jesus gives us his Spirit of Love, his law.
Jesus places his Spirit of Love deep in our hearts.

Our prayer for you and for ourselves is
that the strong voice of the Lord sound through us to others,
that the Spirit of Love deep in our hearts reach others.

In our words:

I am God’s presence. I don’t want to get in the way.
I am what I cannot do. You are doing this, Lord, through me.
I want to allow you, my God, to heal me and through me to heal others.
All the gifts I have to help others are your gifts to me.
Let God transform me and be through me.
Let me be a free expression of God, faithful to who I am.
Let me live as a woman of faith, loving myself and extending love to others.

In the words of our class patron, Saint Teresa of Avila,
and we pray that we may take these words into ourselves:
Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion must look out on the world.
Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.
Yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.

May the strong voice of the Lord sound through us to others.

May the Spirit of Love deep in our hearts reach others, enabling each one of us to live our
“faith commitment in community among the people of God.”