

2010 Spring Combined Collection
HOMILY REFLECTION
by Fr. Reno Aiardi

“God is love. Our Father loves us with the perfection of His love. So much did He love the world that He has sent Christ, so that everyone who listens to His word and believes in Him, may have everlasting life.

With the same love of my Holy Father, I love every one of you. I remain in the love of my Father because I do His will and keep His commandments. You equally remain in His love when you keep his commandments and are faithful to His word.” (<http://theworkofgod.org/Devotns/Euchrist/HolyMass/gospels.asp?key=176>)

By his actions Jesus has entrusted us with the message that we are loved by God and that we are to love one another as God loved us. He has called everyone individually and in spiritual ways, to be converted, then to imitate Christ and to obtain perfection by helping others become more like Christ.

Today, with the love of Our Father, we are invited to share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need locally and globally by supporting the Spring Combined Collection. We do so to honor Christ’s commandment: love one another as I have loved you. **We are not asked to feel sorry for the poor, or to have pity on them. We are asked to join our hearts, minds and hands in taking responsibility for the mission which has been entrusted to us.** We, together bear within us the love of God testified to by the fact that we claim God’s Spirit living in us.

During Pope Benedict XVI’s visit to the United States last April, over and over again he urged us, “Proclaim the love of Christ!” Together we need to proclaim the love of Christ because it’s the only way we can give witness to the gifts we have received. **When we stretch out our hand to help another person in need, when we assist them in time of crisis, when we reach out to them in prayer and solidarity, we are proclaiming the love of Christ. Each time we do this we deepen for ourselves the experience of the love of God, for love is one of those gifts that demands it be given away to be fully realized within us.**

As we prayerfully reflect on this appeal and prepare to complete the envelopes being passed out, I would like to encourage you to consider a gift of love to support each special ministry: Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Communications Campaign, Catholic Relief Services, and Peter’s Pence.

Thank you very kindly for caring and sharing!