



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 15, 2022

Fr. Bob Kabat

Scripture: Acts 14:21-27 Revelation 21:1-5a John 13:31-33a, 34-35

The renowned artist Paul Gustave Dore (1832-1883) once lost his passport while travelling in Europe. When he came to a border crossing, he explained his predicament to one of the guards. Giving his name to the official, Dore hoped he would be recognized and allowed to pass. The guard, however, said that many people attempted to cross the border by claiming to be persons they were not.

Dore insisted that he was the man he claimed to be. "All right," said the official, "we'll give you a test, and if you pass it we'll allow you to go through." Handing him a pencil and a sheet of paper, he told the artist to sketch several peasants standing nearby. Dore did it so quickly and skillfully that the guard was convinced he was indeed who he claimed to be. His action confirmed his identity.

The world should be able to tell our identity as well; that we are followers of Jesus Christ.

The God of Israel and the Father of Jesus, whom we worship as our Master and Teacher, is love. He so loved us that He sent His only begotten Son to us.

He tells us in the Gospel: "I give you a new commandment: love one another." He too adds: "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

The rest of the story – the definition of love – was still to come, his death on the cross.

It is not a suggestion, but a commandment.

Maybe at school we see a classmate who is being disrespected by word or action. Can we go to their side for support?

At work you have a new refugee working with you and they struggle with the English language, can we assist them in this difficult transition?

We join in a conversation that becomes a gossip haven, can we stop it or at least walk away?

Can we assist an elderly neighbor with outside chores?

We can all come up with examples, I am sure from our present life.

Like the artist at the border, who was able to convince the border guard that he was Paul Gustave Dore by his action, so are we to be convincing as disciples of the Lord, by how we love one another, as he has loved us.

Our actions confirm our identity.

Prayer: The Glory of God