



Sixth Sunday of Easter

How often we yearn for the mind of God. We search for the answers to God's mysteries. Yet, the readings staunchly maintain that, as believers, we are the ones who reflect God's mind and attitude. Believers are the ones who reveal God's outlook on reality.

In the first reading, we see the conviction that the Christian community is for everyone. Gentiles need not become Jews to join. We see two reversals of the normal. Cornelius, a Roman Centurion, was Peter's 1st Gentile convert. The Romans conquered the Jews, yet Cornelius kneels before Peter. The other instance was the Holy Spirit descending on them, and then the baptismal water is poured. The reverse is the usual.

In the 2nd reading, John talks of the bond of love that unites God with the believers. Love is the criterion for knowing God. God is love. And so, love must characterize God's family.

The Gospel develops the imagery of last week's parable of the vine and the branches. To "abide" in Jesus' love is to acknowledge that love by responding to His commandments.