

Pray, Grow, & Serve

Learning about the dignity of the human Person

The PELICAN
PROJECT

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
March 31, 2024 | White

For God So Loved the World...

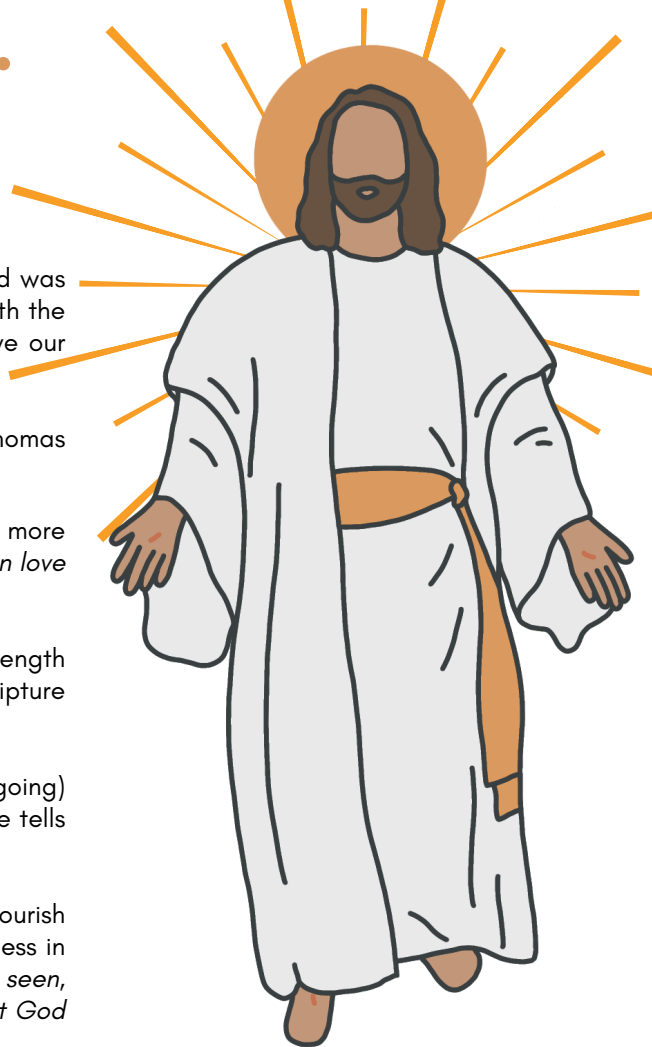
that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believed in Him might not perish but have eternal life.

love [virtue!]

On Easter, we rejoice in Jesus's life and glorious resurrection; everything He did was an act of perfect love for you and me! As Christians, we are invited to love with the heart of God; this means that we love His Son above all other things and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Loving with the heart of God is a gift that helps us in four important ways. St Thomas Aquinas explains how:

- 1 We become what we love!** The more we participate in God's love, the more like Him we become! Scripture tells us *God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.* (1 John 4:16)
- 2 Helps us to do hard things!** Loving with the heart of God gives us the strength to follow His commandments and withstand the temptation to sin. Scripture tells us, *Whoever loves me will keep my word.* (John 14:23)
- 3 Helps us to keep going!** Sharing in God's love helps us persevere (keep going) when things feel hard, especially when we experience suffering. Scripture tells us *All things work for good for those who love God.* (Romans 8:28)
- 4 Brings us Holy Happiness!** Loving with the heart of God helps us to flourish into the boy or girl God created us to be; this means finding holy happiness in living the plan God has for our lives. *Scripture tells us, What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him.* (1 Corinthians 2:9)



“...he saw and believed”...

We read in the Gospel that the apostles, Mary, and the other women were full of wonder when the stone was rolled back from Jesus's tomb—His Body was gone! At this moment, they understood in their hearts that Jesus had risen from the dead—they truly saw and believed.

Today, 2,000 years after Jesus's resurrection, how do people experience the same wonder? Jesus teaches us in the Gospel of John that it is the way we love that most perfectly shares the mystery of Christ. He says, *"This is how all will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."* This means that when you love your neighbor with the heart of God, people will see and believe in Him!

As Christian disciples, we desire all men, women, and children to feel seen, known, and loved by God. When we care for one another with reverence for their dignity and desire a holy happiness for their life, we are evangelizing (sharing the Gospel) in a beautiful way. Never get tired or discouraged from loving well and sharing with those you encounter the perfect, infinite love of Jesus and His desire to spend eternity with them.

