



BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF CHICAGO

5th Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025
Sr. Judith Murphy

Acts 14: 21-27
Ps 145: 8-9, 10-11, 12-13
Rv 21: 1-5a
Jn 13: 31-33a 34-35

In the late '80's, the Federation of St. Scholastica sponsored a trip to a cultural center in Cuernavaca where sisters could experience and learn directly about the lives of Mexican women; about the barefoot doctors; and about base Christian communities—comunidades de base. Sisters Miriam and Karen and I attended and had a pertinent and enriching experience.

While there, we visited the newly built Cathedral in Cuernavaca where we saw large letters on the sanctuary wall, showing words that would be seen by the celebrant and the faithful each time they celebrate the Eucharist:

NADIE HA VISTO NUNCA A DIOS
PERO SI NOS AMAMOS UNOS A OTROS
DIOS PERMANECE ENTRE NOSOTROS.

In English: No one has ever seen God, but if we love each other God dwells among us.

Today's readings: From John's gospel, the Acts of the Apostles and the Book of Revelation carry that same message for us.

In today's gospel, the glorified Jesus is present with the apostles (minus Judas) and they (and we) receive his new command: I give you a new commandment: Love One Another. This is how all will recognize that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

In Acts, Paul and Barnabas and the others begin to establish faith communities and call the Gentiles to leave idols behind and share faith in the living God.

In Revelations, John shares his vision of a new heaven and new earth where he heard a loud voice from the throne saying: *Behold God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God and make all things new.*

This call by the living God to love one another extends throughout the faith community; for us it is at the heart of our vow of Conversion through a Monastic Way of life. The monastery is a school of the Lord's service, and we ask our God each day to renew our willingness and capacity to love one another. We pray that we continue to learn to give and receive love. We pray each day for help to listen with the ear of our hearts to the Spirit's promptings, to the wisdom of each other, the counsel of the wise, and our own deepest desires: to listen and to share our insights and hopes with one another. May we have humility, patience, and good zeal as we continue to discern together and share our hopes for new and abundant life at this mysterious moment of our history.

NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD, BUT IF WE LOVE EACH OTHER GOD DWELLS AMONG US.