Friday of the Fifth Week of Easter

Gospel text (*Jn* 15:12-17): Jesus said to his disciples, “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends …"

Charity: “God’s ethics”

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Today, we contemplate Jesus giving the apostles His last “instructions” before “His departure”. The teaching and indications are clear: we must love one another just as He himself loved us. To what extent? To the point of death, giving everything up for our brethren: This is what charitable love is.

Charity can be looked upon as “divine ethics”, it’s the divine style of love. To us it’s a "novelty". Several ethical systems certainly existed before Christ (Aristotelian ethics …) as did legal systems (Roman law…). But God goes beyond that: he destines us to love as Divine People—Father, Son and Holy Spirit— love each other and us. It is a love that —without disqualifying it— aims far beyond that which is useful and pleasing: it’s the quest for the good and the perfection of the other.

—Jesus, You are God and have become man "for me". Teach me to love to the point that I "exist for the others", to the point that I can say to my brother: I am happy because I make you happy.