

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020

A number of years ago, when I was a graduate student, I had reason to do some research in the law school library at St. John's. The thing that has stayed with me all these years later is the thousands of volumes on the shelves with laws and interpretation of laws in them. The shelves literally went for as far as the eye could see.

With that in mind, I couldn't help but think that if we all just followed Jesus' directive to "love one another," and "keep my commandments," perhaps all those law volumes would not be necessary. If we just followed God's laws, which fit on one page, that things would be pretty good. I mean, could it be any easier?

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife (or husband).
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

It seems to me that all of those law books are encapsulated in the Ten Commandments, if only we did a better job of keeping them!

Jesus tells us that if we observe His commandments, which are rooted in love, then we love Him... and if we love Him, and show that love by our actions with one another, then the Father will love us, and Jesus will love us and reveal Himself to us. Jesus reveals Himself to us in the Commandments; by His word; in the Eucharist; through the Holy Spirit, and through the Church and the Sacraments. Remain in Him, and He will remain in us.

All in all, a pretty good deal!

Deacon John Hogan