

I LOVE YOU!

PASTOR REX VASALLO

I love you! Yes, I want to say to you, being part of the body of Christ which is the Church - I love you. And I believe that it's not just me who loves the Church, but we all love one another. The feeling is mutual. Now, if there's love, there's always an action that corresponds to it. And, we have seen that action as we had been through the pandemic together.

In the past years, we have seen how the church helped one another especially those who got infected by COVID 19 and needed to quarantine in their homes. The church persevered in meeting together whether online or onsite. The church made themselves available to continue their ministry to the church. Our church was instrumental in helping other churches and organizations. I'm sure there's more that the church did, but the point is, as we look at all these, we can confidently say that the love of Jesus is at work and is seen in our church because we love one another. As Jesus mentioned, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Now, the beautiful thing about us followers of Jesus, is though it is essential for us to deepen our relationship with one another, that is not necessary for us to be able to love one another because our love for one another is anchored in Christ. It is He who modeled perfect love, and it is He who motivates and gives us the capacity to love. As 1 John 4:19 says, "We love because he first loved us." Experiencing God's abundant love, this love overflows.

But, we have to understand that the overflow of Christ's love should not just be confined within the Church. As the love of Jesus is felt in the Church, the love of Jesus should also be manifested through the Church. People outside the Church community *should* feel it, too. Therefore, as we celebrate love this month, one thing that I want to put highlight is our calling to show and share the love of Jesus to people around us.

In light of this, today, we will launch our **Love Thy Neighbor** campaign. As the world celebrates love this month and as people seek for love, let us all lead them to Love Himself

- Jesus Christ. Now, how can we be part of *Love Thy Neighbor*? At our booth, we have prepared *Love Thy Neighbor* gift tags. As you claim gift tags, it also serves as a commitment on your part to give each tag to a pre-believing *neighbor*. And since it is a gift tag, it will only work if you partner it with a simple gift for your pre-believing *neighbor*.

We hope that through Love Thy Neighbor, you will be urged to share the Gospel to your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers or classmates. Through this, may we be able to build this culture of loving our neighbor by sharing the message of salvation and by being a tangible expression of God's love. Let us take advantage of this love month and lead the world to the greatest love shown by God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

As we participate in this activity, may it be that we will be fueled by God's love and nothing else. As we have experienced God's love, let us then be instruments so that other people, too, may experience God's love!✱