

eNews for Sunday, May 10, 2015

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17



St. Matthew's Cathedral eNews

Christ + Compassion + Community

From the Dean

“But he was Such a Sweet Boy!”

One of the most dramatic cases in my career as a lawyer was when I represented the son of a parishioner who had been charged and convicted of armed robbery of a dress shop near Galveston. His mother asked me to represent him after he was convicted at trial. He “swore up and down” to his mother—and to me—that he was innocent, and he complained that he had an alibi and that if his girlfriend could be found, she would attest to his whereabouts with her at the time of the robbery.

We got him a new trial. At trial, after he testified about his girlfriend and her forthcoming alibi, the prosecutor produced a letter the young man had written to his girlfriend. It read, “Stick with me, baby, and give them the story that I gave you, and when we beat this rap, we’ll split the take from the dress shop.”

Needless to say, the conviction was affirmed, and he went off to prison.

I hardly had the heart to tell his mother, but when I told her the results and that it appeared that he really did rob the dress shop, she replied, “But he was such a sweet boy when he was a child!”

That is, I believe, what mothers do that cause us to love them so much: they believe in us when nobody else does—even in the face of irrefutable evidence to the contrary. We all need someone to love us unconditionally. It may be your mother, father, or friend, but even if we have no one in our life to love us unconditionally, God our heavenly Father does. Only as we abide in God’s love for us can we withstand the slings and arrows that life brings us.