

The following is a modern translation of a key sentence in today's Gospel: "This you see is how much God loves the world; enough to give his only special son so that everyone who believes in Him should not be lost but should have eternal life."

Back in 1994 there was a woman from Rwanda who was part of our parish community. I came to know her pretty well. She began to tell me of the horrible slaughter of human life in her own country. She was a member of the Tutsi tribe. They were being slaughtered by the Hutu tribe. One million Tutsi were murdered. She came to church one day and told me her mother was murdered. The slaughter went on and on. I couldn't imagine how she held up as one after another of her family were killed. There was a deep peace about her even as she carried a horrible sadness. I admired her so much.

There was a young man in Rwanda, Jean de Dieu, a Hutu who married Emmeline, a Tutsi woman. They had 4 children, all girls. He was told that he must kill his wife and children. He immediately took his family to an island in Lake Kivu between Rwanda and Congo. He then went back home to find a safe place for his family. Emmeline and her daughters escaped to Congo.

She and her 4 daughters returned to Rwanda but never heard from her husband again. He had been murdered by members of his own family. During a reconciliation process held by the Rwandan government Emmeline and her daughters faced Jean's killers who were members of his own family and forgave them.

Today's Gospel tells us that God, our Father, loved us (every one of us) so much that He gave His Son for us. He suffered and died so that we might have eternal life. Everything that Jesus did and continues to do is for us, is for you. The heart of God is great for us, each and every one of us. We are not here just for this life, the joys and sorrows of this life. We have a far greater purpose, our life has a far greater meaning. St. Paul tells us so beautifully "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the human heart what God has prepared for us."

God loved us so much that He gave us His only begotten Son!

Let us enter into the heart of God.