

**THE TEST OF THE GENUINENESS OF LOVE IS CONCERN FOR OTHERS – (2  
Cor 8:8)**

Homily of His Eminence, Peter Ebere Cardinal Okpaleke, in St. Francesco Church,  
Modena on Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The readings today present us with two challenges regarding our love for others. The first challenge is that love is more than a feeling or emotion. Genuine love entails concern for others especially when it is not convenient for us. The second challenge is that our love or concern for others must go beyond our neighbours, family and friends, to include those we do not know and may not even get to know. To drive the point home, our love is supposed to extend even to our enemies.

In the first reading, the Christians of Macedonia are presented as example of that genuine love. Most of the Christians in Macedonia were gentiles. This notwithstanding, out of gratitude for the ministry of St. Paul, who is a Jew and as an expression of their unity in Jesus Christ with the Church in Jerusalem, whose membership was predominantly Jewish, they volunteered to make a financial contribution to support the Church in Jerusalem. Interestingly, members of the Church in Macedonia had their own financial difficulties. Despite this, they insisted on showing concern to the sister Church in Jerusalem.

We pray that all of us members of the Church recognize our unity in the faith and grow in love through our concern for one another.