In today's Gospel, Luke 6:31-36, the Lord tells us that we must love everyone even those who may hurt us. He said, "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

Dearest ones, we have heard of the Golden Rule, do unto others as you would have them do to you. How does this reflect in our lives? Is it difficult to return love to someone who may be cruel to us? We face these obstacles in our daily lives, and Jesus Christ tells us that it is easy to love those who love us; it is of more credit to love those who have hurt us.

Saint Dionysios of Zakynthos gives us a great example of this unconditional love. When a murderer came to the monastery he lived in seeking refuge, after confessing his sin, and Saint Dionysios finding out it was his own brother the man had murdered, he forgave him. Saint Dionysios did so with love and hid him from the authorities. In due time, the man repented for his sin, and later became a monk himself.

Could we do this if we were in the place of Saint Dionysios? Indeed with God, all things are possible! As a result of this great action, Saint Dionysios is known as the saint of forgiveness. Dearest ones, can we forgive those that have hurt us? Can we show love and mercy to those that need more time to understand how they may have hurt us?

We can be the change we would like to see in the world. We can be kind unconditionally. We can smile. We can pray for others. We can help. We can show compassion. We can forgive. We can love. Although we may not see the direct change in the world from our actions, we will see the transformation within us as we move closer to God following his teachings.

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever amen.