Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time — October 29, 2023

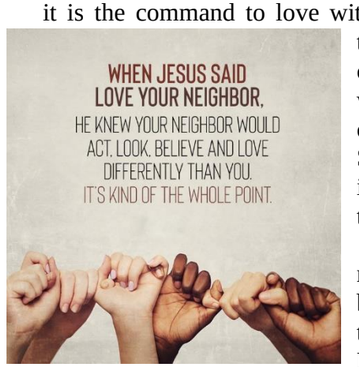
From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The lawyer who asked Jesus which of the commandment of the law was the greatest received an answer that was a touch of both the familiar and the new. Jesus' response was, in part. no surprise. He identified two of the commandments – the love of God and the love of neighbor – as among the "great" ones. But he linked them to one another and the whole of the law and the prophets in a completely unexpected way. Jesus claimed not only that these two commandments function as the principle of interpretation for the entire law in all its complexity, but also that the love of neighbor "is like" the love of God.

We do not merely illustrate or demonstrate our love of God in our love for one another, it is only in and through the love we bear for one another and for self that we actualize our love for God. The love of self and of neighbor is, we might say, the sacramental cause of the love of God. It is the expression and realization of our response to God's prior love for us. Our "Yes" to God is a "Yes" to self and others. The invitation to embrace the infinite is a call to unconditional surrender in the midst of the finite. We taste and touch eternity in our everyday human loves.

The love we bear for Jesus is, of course, paramount. In Jesus we love the human other who is in the depths of his person, one with God. Our love for this infinite finite one, our love for the one who is in his person the unity of the divine and the human, is the prime instance and ultimate fulfillment of the great commandment of which he spoke.

The command to love God with one's entire self, the command to love one another as one's self, the command to love Jesus, is the one thing necessary. But it is the command to love with utter abandon at all times. It is the command to love without limit. It is the command to love as the Spirit of God loves. It is the command to let the Spirit love in us.



What would it mean if we actually believed that the Love that is the Spirit of the Father of Jesus lives in us as God's personal gift enabling us to love one another?

What would it mean if we actually believed that our love for one another is one with our Spirit empowered love for God?

What would it mean if we actually believed that the love, we know from each other is one with the love that is God's Breath? What would it mean if we actually believed that the affection offered us in the ordinary little exchanges of life were one with the affection that bonds Jesus and the father? What would it mean?

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**October 31**	**11:00AM**
Jojo Bernardo †		Marcella de Leon
Wed.	**Nov 1**	**9:00AM; 6:00PM**
Mary Brazil †		Lisa Moniz
Thur.	**November 2**	**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		
Fri.	**November 3**	**11:00AM**
Ida Ruggeri & Angelina Ferrini †		Lisa Ruggeri
Sat.	**November 4**	**4:30PM**
Banaga Family		Bob† & Lydia
Sun.	**November 5**	**9:00AM**
Jorge, Tomasa, Jose & Manuel †		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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