

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 29, 2023

Gospel: (Matthew 22:34-40)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law, tested him by asking, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? He said to him, “*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.*”

Reflection:

The love of God is central to our lives: love with all one’s heart, soul, and mind. If the second commandment to love neighbor as self is like the first, then we might surmise that we must love our neighbor *in the same way* as we love God. Loving God isn’t merely a matter of fervor in our hearts; it is expressed in doing good for the sake of others. (Living Liturgy, p.260)

Vincentian Meditation:

“Let us love God, my brothers, let us love God. But let it be with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brow.” –St. Vincent de Paul-
(McKenna, Praying with Vincent, p.64)

Discussion: (*Share your thoughts after a moment of silence*)

As you pray the words of Vincent, picture instances when you did love God in actions of charity and justice. Recall two sincere attempts that you made to be helpful to someone, one of which worked and the other which did not. Share on any differences between the two acts of charity.

Closing Prayer:

We have given ourselves to the service of our sisters and brothers.
Mindful of our need for grace, we pray:

-Jesus, help us to “love God with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brow.”

So many are hungry and have no means of support,

-may we respond with generosity and availability.

The sick and the poor wait for healing,

-may we respond with generosity and availability.

To those who are saddened by the burdens of life,

-may we respond with generosity and availability.

For the grace to love God with our whole heart, mind and soul, and our neighbor as ourselves,

-may we respond with generosity and availability.

Amen



I AM COMPASSIONATE.

EX 22:27