

XXX SUNDAY ORDINARY YEAR A

"You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. You will love your neighbor as yourself".

Faced with these simple and profound words, many feelings accumulate. First of all, the shame and repentance of loving so little. I ask myself and each of you may also ask: Did I experience God's love this morning? At this moment do I love the Lord with all my heart, or am I distracted, do I not feel his presence full of love? And towards others: this morning did I try to offer love to people, at home, on the street, here in the church? Or am I selfish, capricious, and just thinking about me? Then I feel that it is important to renew the intentions of a sincere, concrete love towards God and towards others. I have to feel that love is the most beautiful, greatest thing, the one that really matters. Even if around the worldly mentality it does nothing but induce selfishness, closure, litigation.

The commandment of love, taken up by the Old Testament, Jesus makes it his and calls it the new commandment, his commandment: "I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you". Sometimes it seems too big, almost impossible for us.

But Jesus not only gave us the commandment, but he infused in our hearts his Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of love, the power of love, the joy of love. And then everything becomes possible: it is enough to see what great and holy souls have done or do.

We ask ourselves again: in this time so important for our parish that is preparing to receive a new priest and in time of pandemic: how do I love the Lord? Am I looking for his will, his project of community, of the Church?

How do I love the parishioners, that is, my brothers of faith, of Christian life? Do I try to build their good: the good of families, young people, and people in difficulty? Do I collaborate with those who work in the parish or do I increase their effort?

Do I offer my availability: a little of time, service, and commitment? Do I have the will to learn that specific love that is lived in small parish groups?

It is in the love of neighbor that we become concrete. The next as it is; not just the nice one, the friend one, the one who reciprocates. But the neighbor in his poverty, in his need for love, help, dignity, life, forgiveness, redemption. We are called to universal love. The Old Testament already said: "The stranger who dwells among you will treat as one born among you. You will love him as yourself". "You will not harass the stranger or oppress him, you will not mistreat the widow and the orphan; do not behave as a usurer, do not keep your neighbor's pledge". Then Jesus will say: "I tell you: Love your enemies, do well to those who hate you, pray for your persecutors". Jesus will not stop to say: Love your neighbor as yourself, but "love one another as I have loved you", that is, giving life.

All this is very beautiful and right, because they are not words, but they are concrete actions. And love is the greatest thing we can give and it is the thing we all need. The apostle Paul says: "Love one another with brotherly affection". Love is a mutual enrichment, it is giving and receiving at the same time, it is only an apparent loss because in reality you get much more than you give. It is the typical experience of those who volunteer with the sick or the poor.

John says: "Whoever loves God must also love his brother. Whoever does not love his brother who sees, cannot love God who does not see".

The Lord considers what we do to our neighbor, especially to our neighbors in need, as done to Himself. For this he will be able to say: "Enter into the joy of your Lord".