



ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO-CATECHETICAL MINISTRY
Module 61 (October 31, 2021) 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time- Cycle B
Theme: Love of God and Love of Neighbor
Mk 12:28b-34



INTRODUCTION

(Talk about preparations being done for the celebration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on November 1 and 2. Draw out some insights from these two occasions.)

Some persons' names and even places like our parishes are named after saints. We like using the names of saints. They lived a holy life. We are sure they are in heaven as a reward for them.

Only one thing made them Saints. that is love. When they were alive, they persevered in loving God and neighbors

We also pray for our beloved dead especially on Nov 1 and 2. Why do we pray for them? We remember them for the love we received from them. Or we pray for them that God may forgive them for failing to love and finally be with God forever. Let us see what Jesus tells us about love on this Sunday's Gospel.



OPENING PRAYER

God our Father, you taught us how to love.
 through your Son, Jesus.
 Open our ears that we may hear and understand
 your voice.
 Enlighten our minds
 so that we do and act on what we have seen and heard
 Amen
 Glory Be



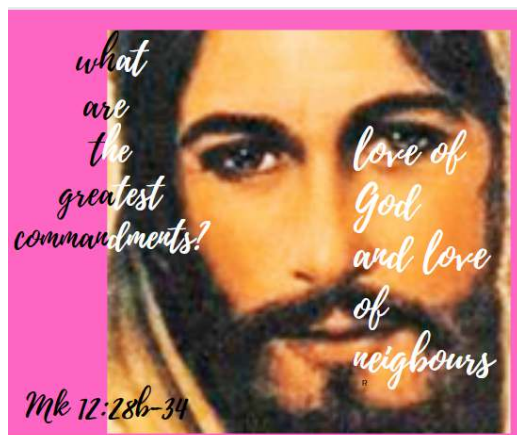
PHASE ONE
REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS

1. Proclamation of the Gospel Story -Mark 12:28b-34
(Enthroned the Bible on a table with lighted candle)

A moment of prayerful silence

We will not be able to understand the Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
 Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord;
 and my father will love him and we will come to him.
 R. Alleluia, alleluia.



Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (12:28b-34)

All: Glory to you O Lord

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?"
 Jesus replied, "The first is this:
Hear, O Israel!
The Lord our God is Lord alone!
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
 The second is this:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
 There is no other commandment greater than these."
 The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.' And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."
 And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."
 And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord
 All: Praise to you. Lord Jesus Christ

2. Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer
What are the two greatest commandments according to Jesus?

Text in Context

1. Who came to Jesus? What did he ask from Jesus? One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments"
2. What was the reply of Jesus? Jesus replied, *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*
3. What are the two lines that Jesus said before giving his answer? *Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone!*
4. Where did these lines come from? They are taken from the 10 Commandments. The first three concern love of God, and the other seven love of neighbor.
5. How did the Scribes reply to Jesus? He understood what he said and agreed to Jesus by repeating his answer.
6. Why do you think the scribes ask this question to Jesus?

PHASE II REFLECT the Story
of the Church
(Teachings of the Church)



The way to the Eternal home is love

The celebration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day point to the basic truth of our faith. Life on earth is not our permanent home. We are all travelers towards our eternal home - to be with God forever. The story of Saints tells us how we can be holy and happy in loving and serving God while on earth. Remembering our beloved dead confirms the belief that there is eternal life. We offer them prayers so that their souls may find peace and happiness with God or give thanks to them for the love we received from them. Eternal life begins now. The way we spend our day-to-day activities determines what awaits us beyond our life on earth. In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us the sure road that leads to eternal life: LOVE. This is a "love track" that has two rails: love of God and love of neighbors.

God has first loved us.

God always seeks and wants us for himself. Only in God, we can find true peace and happiness. God's love is made available for us in many ways like family, community, and Church celebrations as in the Eucharist. *God has loved us first and he continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love. God does not demand of us a feeling which we ourselves are incapable of producing. He loves us, he makes us see and experience his love, and since he has "loved us first", love can also blossom as a response within us.* (Deus Caritas).

To love then is no longer an obligation or something commanded on us but a spontaneous YES to a loving and tender God. Thus, only by experiencing the love of God can we be ready to love our neighbors in the truest sense.

All the Gospel writers narrate Jesus' closeness to the Father. Jesus prays and does what only please God. He cares and is compassionate especially to the sick, poor, and sinners. The whole life of Jesus shows us how he loves the Father to the point of giving his life for us. In Jesus, we are able to see the love of God and neighbors in many ways.

Have I truly experienced the love of God in my life?
How does this experience affect me and my relationship with others?

The love of God and the love of neighbor

One of the Scribes asked Jesus: *Which is the first of all the commandments?"* The Scribe who came to Jesus needed not to ask such a thing. He himself knew the answer. Scribes were religious and educated people in the time of Jesus. They studied the law including the great commandments (the Ten) and the other small ones (613) of the law. Scribes followed them as written in their holy book called the Torah, for the sake of mere doing. We knew how they rejected Jesus, each time they saw him healing the sick on Sabbath.

What was Jesus' reply to the above question? As usual Jesus, answered simply and straight to the point. This time he gave what is important among the commandments:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus stresses that the love of God is to give everything of oneself to the One True God. It is but right to love God who gives all of himself to each one of us. *To love God is to live of him and for him, for what he is and for what he does.*

God's forgiveness is unlimited. His relationship with us is life-giving. Therefore, to love God is a call to forgive without limit and to relate with others as brothers and sisters regardless of who they are.

True love of God is expressed concretely through the love of neighbor. These "two loves" cannot be separated. Love of God and love of neighbor always go together.

Our neighbors are not only those who live next door, or those we know in the community. Neighbors goes beyond where we live. We belong to the same world especially at this time when we can communicate faster to farthest parts of the world through social media.

A believer who loves God and loves his neighbor is strengthened in many ways. It is not a mere following of the law but finding "the more in life" – abundant blessings and prosperity.

How do I express my love for God? How do I feel when I do some acts of love for God? How do I extend my love for God through my love for neighbors?

PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal faith /community faith story

We have many religious practices such as devotion to Saints, offering masses for the dead, saying the rosaries, and adoration of the Eucharist. These are all expression of love to the living God that make our faith grows.

On the other side, the Church is never lacking of charitable works for the poor and the needy. Do we participate in them?

Even in our respective communities, there are lots of chances we can offer help. what do we do to get involved especially at this time when there are many people suffering due to pandemic?



CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God.

Thank you that you are a loving, gracious God. Thank you for your unlimited forgiveness. Thank you that your love is perfect. Nothing can separate us from your love.

We pray that our relationships be full of love especially to those who are in need

Help us simply to love you and to choose to love others.

Lord thank you that your love is patient. Help us show patience with those around us.

Lord thank you that your love is kind. Help us to extend kindness to others.

Lord thank you that true love is not jealous. Help us cast aside feelings of jealousy or hatred towards others.

Amen.

BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS

CCC 2067

The Ten Commandments state what is required in the love of God and love of neighbor. The first three concern love of God, and the other seven love of neighbor.

As charity comprises the two commandments to which the Lord related the whole Law and the prophets . . . so the Ten Commandments were themselves given on two tablets. Three were written on one tablet and seven on the other.

CCC 2074

Jesus says: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." The fruit referred to in this saying is the holiness of a life made fruitful by union with Christ. When we believe in Jesus Christ, partake of his mysteries, and keep his commandments, the Savior himself comes to love, in us, his Father and his brethren, our Father and our brethren. His person becomes, through the Spirit, the living and interior rule of our activity. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you

