

Journey OF Faith

January 31, 2010

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In Word & Deed

A parent sits up with a sick child all night; a woman makes an eight hour drive to be with her grieving friend; the whole family comes to the first grade play to see one of their children in a small part. All of these scenarios have one thing in common. Each person who acts does so out of love. Love motivates, inspires and demands the very best in each of us.

The second reading today is probably one of St. Paul's best-known passages. It succinctly describes the nature and meaning of love, attributing to it the rank of the greatest virtue, one that will last forever. Love is expressed not only in words, but also in action that avoids the pettiness of life and reaches towards the perfection of heaven. It is a small taste of

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Ritual is not to be seen as a content to which people must comply, but as a structure within which they can pulsate and pirouette in unprescribed ways. Ritual should lure people into festive fantasy, put them in touch with the deepest longings of the race, help them to step into the parade of history, and ignite their capacity for creation.

~ Harvey Cox

Scripture Readings

Sunday January 31

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13
Lk 4:21-30

Monday February 1

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday February 2

Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Wednesday February 3

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday February 4

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/Mk 6:7-13

Friday February 5

Sir 47:2-11/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday February 6

1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34

Sunday February 7

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11

FAMILY LIFE:

TO WALK AS ONE

After reading short stories about love, the class was challenged to define what love is. It proved to be more difficult than they imagined. Students claimed that they knew what it was, but were hard pressed to put it into words. It was easier to describe loving actions than it was to define love itself. So, when we say “I love you,” what does it mean?

Many times we are the beneficiaries of the love of others. It comes to us in selfless acts of love and kindness that make our lives better, easier or more enjoyable. People have done for us—and continue to do for us—even when we are unaware. They’ve kept us safe, taught us, coached us, directed us, prayed for us and healed us. Behind

the scenes, people have sacrificed a lot to give us a better life. And it is done out of love.

This week, surprise some people and practice random acts of kindness. Do something for others, the little things that make people smile. Hold a door, pick up groceries, call or visit a shut-in. Let someone go first in line. Find some kind words for someone who is struggling. Be generous and considerate of others. Create your own definition of love and let it be best described by what you do.

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Sharing in the Eucharist is the heart of Sunday, but the duty to keep Sunday holy cannot be reduced to this. In fact, the Lord’s Day is lived well if it is marked from beginning to end by grateful and active remembrance of God’s saving work.

On Keeping the Lord’s Day Holy
(paragraph 52)



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LOVE

If I have the gift of prophecy, and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love,

I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:2

In Word & Deed

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paradise. No wonder Scripture says that God is love.

Loving others can be difficult and demanding. It may mean sacrifice, patience and forbearance. It’s tough to love the unlovable and the unloving, to love our enemies and those who do

harm to others. But we need to see past the sin to love the sinner. The love we share is the love of God that heals, forgives, binds up and saves. Be as generous with it as you can.

~James Gaffney