Sunday October 25th, 2026
THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

(Ex. 22:20-26; 1Thes. 1:5-10; Mt. 22:34-40)
THEME: CALL TO LOVE

Introduction: Our active love of neighbor is the measure of the reality of our love for God. St. John makes this fact clear in his first epistle: "He who does not love his brother whom he does see cannot love God whom he does not see" (1 Jn. 4:20). However, we must note, as a matter of fact, that love of neighbor does not replace the love of God. Jesus makes this distinction explicit in his response to the question on "the greatest commandment". Here, the love we have for our neighbor is presented as the consequence of a primary, a fundamental love for God. Therefore, love for neighbors is predicated on the love we have for God.

Love of Neighbor: The first reading invites us to reflect the virtue of compassion in our dealings with others, after the pattern of God, our Father who is compassionate. Compassion simply means "feeling of sorrow or deep tenderness for one who is suffering or experiencing misfortune," literally "a suffering with another". God calls us to feel the pain of the poor and the needy among us, in imitation of his divine nature. This virtue of compassion moves us to practical acts of love towards our neighbor.

Love of God: God demands that we love him with all our heart, soul, and mind; that is, the totality of our being. We cannot love God unless we are willing to give him our all. It is so because God is infinite in his nature while we are finite beings. We would need an infinite amount of love to be able to love God sufficiently. But since we are not infinite, it is necessary that we reserve for God the whole love of our souls in acknowledgement of his supreme goodness. This is why God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his one and only beloved son, Isaac, in a burnt offering. God in making this demand, does not thirst for the blood of Isaac, but demands supreme love for Him (God), from Abraham over that of Isaac. Nothing should compete in priority with the love we have for God. Hence, the Apostles "left everything" to follow Jesus.

Why Love: Love for God is considered the first and greatest commandment because it is the only virtue that unites the soul to God. As scripture says, "God is love" (1 Jn. 4:8). Whoever loves, therefore, has God in him. This union is the ultimate destination of Christian life, otherwise called Christian perfection. A thing is perfect insofar as it attains its proper end. Since the last end of human life is to be united to God, and the virtue of love makes this union possible, then, love is the greatest commandment.

Read the entire reflection at:

https://stpeterchurchaz.com/reflections/f/call-to-love-1

Facts about the Vatican

The Confessio reminds us of the Parable of the Lost Sheep

Surrounding the Confessio, there are ninety-nine candles. The number ninety-nine is traditionally associated with eternity. Within the ninety-nine candles, there are seven large candles hanging in front of the sepulchral niche. The number seven is traditionally associated with perfection. The symbolism of the numbers is important as they express the eternity and perfection of the promise offered to humanity in Jesus Christ. The number ninety-nine is also reminiscent of the parable of the lost sheep. The shepherd will leave the ninety-nine and seek out the one that has gone astray (Matthew 18:10-14). The Lord Jesus, and St. Peter as his chief Apostle, will leave the ninety-nine --represented by the candles—and seek out the one that is lost—which is each of us standing at the Confessio ***"What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go in search of the one that went astray?"*** *(Matthew 18:12)*

By Fr. Jeffery Kirby, S.T.L.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

9:00 am Christine Harper by Joy Merriweather
11:00 am +Poor Souls in Purgatory by Joe Turner

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday 9:00 am +Beverly Lewandowski by Matthew Lewandowski
Tuesday 9:00 am +Alfanzo Amezquita
Wednesday 9:00 am +Poor Souls in Purgatory by Ana Pedroza
Thursday 9:00 am Joanna Orozco (intentions)
Friday 9:00am +Juanita Bray by Mary & Joe

PRAYER TREE - LET US PRAY FOR:

Charles and Cristina Rand, Laurie Becker, Elijah Baca, David Baca, Fallon Walker, Judy Bragg, Maria Archuleta, Joe Warne, Larry Tyrrell, Tom Malone, Eva Orona, David & Geri Silva, Jeannette Davis, Angela Gonzales, Joe and Margie Tapia, Bernice & Roxanne Chavez, Lilly Hill, Sophie Pena, Lydia Gonzalez, Sophie Montoya.

TO MAKE PRAYER REQUESTS Please contact the church office at (928) 333-4423. Leave a message, if there is no answer, please include your name and phone number with information.