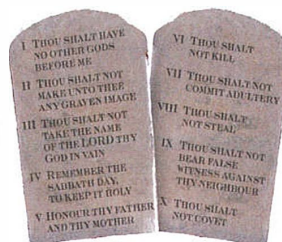


LIVING FAITH

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)



THE GOSPEL TODAY

Mark 12: 28b-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, ‘Which commandment is the first of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The first is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’ Then the scribe said to him, ‘You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that “he is one, and besides him there is no other”; and “to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength”, and “to love one’s neighbour as oneself”,— this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.’ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ After that no one dared to ask him any question.

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

Jesus condenses all the commandments into one great commandment, with two parts: “Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength” and “love your neighbour as yourself.” Love. Many people think of love as an emotion, a feeling. But feelings come and go, and Jesus’ command is to love always. Love, then, must be a decision, a decision that we renew every single day, in every single interaction with others. To love is to make and keep commitments. To love means to be of service.

PONDER AND DISCUSS

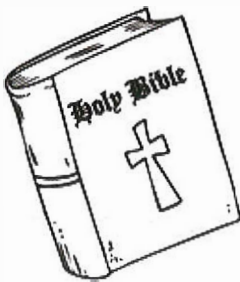
- Who do you know who loves God? How do you know this? How do they show love of God?
- Who do you know who loves others? How do you know this? How do they show love to others?
- Who loves you? How do you know that they love you?
- Who do you love? How do others know that you love them?

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The Greatest Commandment

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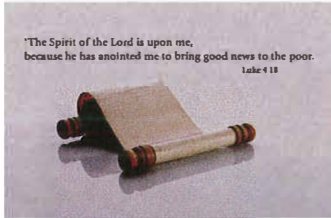


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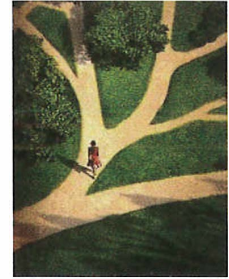
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Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

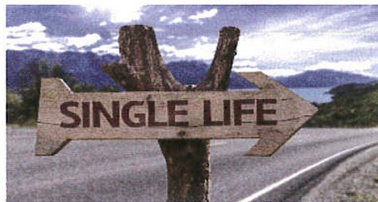


VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL



SINGLE LIFE

For someone who has chosen a single life, even though they have not formally taken the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, yet they make a personal commitment to put their freedom at the service of others in their work and prayer. And in doing so, they strive to follow Christ in their daily lives.



MARRIED LIFE

For a married Christian couple, they follow Christ by giving themselves to each other completely and without any reservation, promising to love each other faithfully for the rest of their lives, sharing their joys and sufferings in whatever circumstances life brings them. They express their love through their sexual union, which brings them together in the closest intimacy and opens them to the gift of new life.



CONSECRATED LIFE

For someone who has chosen the consecrated life, their path of following Christ is through their vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. They are called to live as Christ lived; to model their lives on the life of Jesus- chaste, poor and obedient - making their hearts more free for prayer and service.

ORDAINED PRIESTHOOD

For those who follow the path of priesthood, through sacramental ordination, they share in the priesthood of Christ in a special way. They represent Christ the Good Shepherd for God's people. They not only offer their own lives to God, as all Christians do, but they also stand before the Church and minister to the faithful as Christ 'in person.' Thus, when they absolve sins in the sacrament of Penance then Christ forgives; when they offer the Sacrifice of the Mass then Christ offers that Sacrifice; when they love, support and care for God's people then Christ is present with his people.

