

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 29, 2017

I can picture God smiling when he said what we read today in our gospel from Matthew. God said that the greatest and first commandment is you shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. The second is you shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets (that's us being a spokesperson for God) depend on these 2 commandments. God wants us to be kind to others, share our time, talents and treasures with others, be disciples for Christ and to love each other because we are all in the family of God. Love one another, talk to one another, help one another.

The command 'love one another' appears 11 times in the bible, all in the new testament. Jesus said it 3 times, all in the book of John. The command 'love each other' appears 4 times in the bible, also all in the book of John. We can put that love to good work in our parish by being good stewards and disciples. The late Msgr. Tom McGread who took the concept of Stewardship as a way of life to St. Francis of Assisi in 1968, had a vision. To quote his vision that came from the words of St. Peter that converted hearts, changed lives and brought people closer to God and each other, *"As each one received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

A quality that drew my family to this parish four years ago is how much our parish helps out each other in our own church community as well as reaching out to others in need. In the world around us there are terrible disasters happening. I was so thrilled to hear that our parish donated its treasures to help hurricane victims. Like the second commandment teaches, help thy neighbor. We have a very generous congregation and it is nice to see that people actually tithe and give with a free heart.

In our Exodus reading, God calls for us to be compassionate. I know here at St. Joseph the Worker, time, talent and treasures are appreciated. Thank you for all of your generous treasures you are able to donate, but thank you also for your time and your talents you share with others in our congregation and in our community. I am sure you have seen the banners in the back of the church that were hung recently. They show all of the ways we may get involved and show compassion with our church community. We have so many talented musicians and singers. We have so many talented bakers, cooks and grill masters that help out with our various church activities. We have so many patient, positive, good role models who help out our youth during mass in Sunday school, during activities, during faith formation, during parties, field trips, during community outreach and during sacraments. We have so many individuals who have the gift of speaking in front of others, to deliver us these gospels we listen to every week. We have talented crafters who knit and help decorate for activities, events and church services. We have talented youth who help out Father John during mass and at our Starry night event, chicken dinner, chili family night and others. We have talented young people and adults that deliver us communion each week. Funeral luncheons, visiting the sick, cleaning our

church, taking care of our beautiful landscaping, greeting fellow parishioners each Sunday as we enter, working the tables at the back of the church, taking our blood pressure, the list goes on and on. What activities do you like to attend? What activities do you like to help out with? Try something new, meet new people, say hello to someone new at your next mass. Love one another, talk to one another, help out one another.

Whichever time, talents and treasures you are able to share with each neighbor in our parish, I know it is greatly appreciated. Like our responsorial reading from Psalms, we volunteer and pray for others in our parish family and around the globe to help give great victories to God our King. When we show compassion, love and kindness, God smiles.

Love in Christ,

Lydia Schillinger