

On a Sunday afternoon a family returned home. Their new born son had just been baptized. After the baby was settled in his crib the baby's 6 year old sister said to the family, "Please leave the room, I want to speak to my baby brother." Ad so they left the room with the door opened a crack. Then the girl said to her tiny brother, "What is God like? I'm beginning to forget."

What was it like for you when you beheld your first born baby for the first time? Most probably your heart was deeply moved. You were filled with wonder and awe. You couldn't take it all in.

Have there been other moments in your life when you were touched with wonder and awe? Maybe it was on a starry, starry night or a fresh summer morning. There is no way you could understand all this with you mind but your heart knew in a way beyond understanding.

In today's Gospel Jesus recites a prayer well known to His neighbors called the Shema Israel. Even today pious Jews recite this prayer 2 or 3 times a day, "Hear O Israel, the Lord your 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."

Sometimes people are confused because they can't understand God. They wonder "If you can't understand God, is God real?"

The unknown author of a classic religious medieval book on mysticism "the Cloud of Unknowing" bluntly tells us that "we cannot comprehend God with our mind. We can only apprehend God with a blind stirring of love, i.e. with a stirring of love in our heart.

We still need to understand all that we can about God with our mind but that will never clinch the case. It's your heart that closes the deal.

When you are puzzled about God in your mind go to your heart. Why did this tragedy happen/ Why did the terrible earthquake in Haiti happen? What about the evil of racism, of starvation, of family bickering?

Your mind will take you many places but you can trust your heart. Relish the presence, the love of God who lives in your heart. Remember the moment you first saw your newborn baby.

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

And so now we celebrate the great wonder of God in this Eucharist.