

I believe that the Commandment that Jesus gave to His disciples at the Last Supper; “Love one another as I have loved you, so you also should love one another.”, is the heart of the matter. Although I believe this it is a struggle for me to live it? What about you?

What is so difficult for me about this Commandment? I’m not entirely sure but I think it is that I’m afraid. I’m afraid that if I follow it, I will blow my cover. I’ll have to face my insecurities, take responsibility for my judgementalness, my prejudices, my shame, all the ways I keep myself separate from others. Jesus’ commandment moves me to face my fears and to accept the truth that there is no other. We are all one.

This Commandment of Jesus is wonderful but very challenging. I need God’s help and I need your help. What kind of help? Help me to love.

You may think that this is kind of sticky. That it is asking a lot. But Jesus tells us, “As I have loved you, so you should love one another.”

Well what about our American culture? What about the world we live in? Probably most all would agree that there is a terrible amount of division in our country and as the Fall elections are beginning to heat up the divisions will become more and more apparent. But we can make a difference; “love one another.” And then there is this horrible war in Ukraine and Syria as well.

Racism is often described as America’s original sin. “Love one another” means there is no room for racism in our hearts.

What I love most about our parish is that two distinct cultures come together in one community. We are living out this Commandment of Jesus.

It may be uncomfortable to listen to this challenge, but it is clear that this is the path for each of us to travel. I would like to issue you an invitation. Think about, pray about how you can respond to the call of Jesus? How can you respond to the call of Jesus to love the other person; in your family, in your community, in our parish community. How can we live out this Commandment?

We can't do this on our own. Jesus promises us again and again that He will send each of us His Spirit who will renew and strengthen our hearts.

and

We love the gift of the Eucharist. Jesus sends the gift of His Spirit deeply into our hearts as we receive the Eucharist with love. He is our Conversion.