Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of John 15:9–17: Love One Another

Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.”

Focus Questions

1. Whose love does Jesus say that His love for us is like?
2. How are we to remain in Jesus’ love?
3. Jesus says, “Love one another as I have loved you.” How has Jesus loved us?
4. What does Jesus say is the greatest act of love? How can we live that every day?
5. How are we friends of Jesus? What does He command us to do?
The Saints on Love

Directions: Read the quotes about love from the various saints below. Then answer the reflection questions.

Saint Quotes

“Pure love ... knows that only one thing is needed to please God: to do even the smallest things out of great love - love, and always love.”
–St. Faustina

"Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next door neighbor... Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting."
–St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist."
–Pope St. Gregory the Great

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like."
–St. Augustine of Hippo

"My director, Jesus, does not teach me to count my acts, but to do everything for love, to refuse Him nothing, to be pleased when He gives me a chance to prove to Him that I love Him - but all this in peace - in abandonment."
–St. Therese of Lisieux
"Lord, grant that I might not so much seek to be loved as to love."
–St. Francis of Assisi

“What is the mark of love for your neighbor? Not to seek what is for your own benefit, but what is for the benefit of the one loved, both in body and in soul.”
–St. Basil the Great

“You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves.”
–St. Francis de Sales

“We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love”
–St. Teresa of Calcutta

“There is no place for selfishness—and no place for fear! Do not be afraid, then, when love makes demands. Do not be afraid when love requires sacrifice”
–Pope St. John Paul II

“We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing.”
–St. Clare of Assisi

“Love is the most necessary of all virtues. Love in the person who preaches the word of God is like fire in a musket. If a person were to throw a bullet with his hands, he would hardly make a dent in anything; but if the person takes the same bullet and ignites some gunpowder behind it, it can kill. It is much the same with the word of God. If it is spoken by someone who is filled with the fire of charity— the fire of love of God and neighbor— it will
work wonders."
– St. Anthony Mary Claret

Reflection Questions:
1. What connections do you see between the Gospel and the quotes from the saints?

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2. Of the quotes provided, choose two that you feel best summarize this week’s Gospel. Explain why for each.

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3. Is the way that Jesus and the saints understand love more or less similar to the way our world today understands love? Why do you think so?

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4. Based on the Gospel and the quotes provided, how would you define love?

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5. Who in your life has been the greatest example of love? Explain why. How does their example of love demonstrate the kind of love that Jesus has for us and demands of us?

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6. What is one way this week that you can love others as Jesus commanded us to love?

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