

30th Sunday in Ordinary Tme

My beloved brothers and sisters, Jesus is the Divine Remedy for all of the hate and chaos now at work in the world. Jesus is the Holy Wisdom of God, and the whole of that Wisdom and the Whole of the Divine Medicine for our lives, our families and societ, is contained in these two short commandments: “Love God with your whole heart, your whole mind, and all of your strength; and love your neighbor as yourself.” This flabbergasted the scribe, a scripture scholar of the Ancient Law. They were always trying to condense the whole of Old Testament in a short rendition of the Law. But Jesus did not only do this; He shows us by His life what it means:

Jesus, God in the flesh, gives us the meaning of our earthly lives, by making the meaning of life visible in His own life. Jesus shows us how to be happy in this life and at peace with Joy! The key word is Love!

We use the word love: so cheaply, that we use it to describe everything from, I just love that new dress, to I love chocolate, to, I love you! The word that Jesus uses, is the Greek word: Agape! It means self-sacrificing love, love made visible by giving oneself away in service to others. It means desiring and working for union with God first, and then with all of my brothers and sisters in the world! It means doing the hard work of loving by spending time with the one I love, getting to know them and sharing the experiences of life with them, asking for forgiveness, giving mercy, serving, etc.

Jesus teaches us today, that if I am going to be a person transformed by love, the first step is to be transformed by my love for God, for He has loved me first- that is the meaning of the Cross, and the Cross is the ultimate act of love! I cannot love my neighbor, unless I get the first part of the equation correct. I cannot solve a quadratic equation correctly, until I work through a part of that equation and get it right. If I don't, the whole equation will be wrong!

Love is not self-indulgent, passing emotion, but a life of courage that puts my relationship with God first, and others second, and myself- last! This Love is best seen in our highest models of Love, in Jesus and in our Mother, Mary; who lived

their lives in this courage and self-forgetting. Jesus left the comfort of heaven in order to live with us and love us to the very end. Mary embraced in love the will of God and the whole of humanity in her response to God: "Let it be done to me according to your will..."; and, "Mother, behold your son, son behold your mother!" She too, teaches us how to do this! Jesus reminds us, that it is in living out these two Commandments that we find peace, joy, and love: "there is greater joy in giving, than in receiving..." St. Therese Lisieux, my beloved friend and sisters said: "Jesus flooded the darkness of my soul with torrents of light...Love filled my heart, I forgot myself, and henceforth, I was happy!"