

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020

My beloved brothers and sisters, one of the issues effecting Christianity today, is a do-it-yourself Christianity, that is not Christianity at all. It is expressed by the saying of many: “Well that may be how you feel, but that is not how I feel!” It makes our personal feelings the sole interpretation of reality- which is not reality at all, it is insanity!

The “Law and the Prophets,” which Jesus refers to today, was considered by the Jews and by the Church to contain the absolutely unique self-revelation of the One, True God to His Chosen People. To possess this Law of God made ancient Israel and us, privileged among all of the nations and peoples. This is not at all accepted among the present generation that has based its interpretation on the Book of Feelings; rather than the Book of Revelation. It is the primary reason we are seeing chaos all around us today in every arena of life!

When the Scribe, a Pharisee, who was an expert in the Law, (the Torah, Diborim, Nabaim) the collection of 613 rules for life in the Old Testament, asks Jesus to identify the most important of all of these Laws, he is really challenging Jesus to give an interpretation of the entire religious experience and history of Israel. And so, Jesus does!

Another one of the Gospels which tells this story a little differently tells us that the questioner was blown away by the response of Jesus. Jesus had been asked to name the One Commandment, instead, He names two. The Scribe would have immediately known this! In doing so, Jesus teaches that you cannot separate loving God and loving one’s neighbor. The heart and soul of our Faith, in Judaism and in Christianity, is Loving God first and foremost, by loving and acting for the good of our neighbor. Loving our neighbor by acting for his good, is putting our faith into action!

God has chosen and created every single person on this earth in His own image and likeness, and has loved them into being, and is always loving them into being; so much so, that He gave His Son Jesus, as the Paschal Lamb, the Lamb that was slain as our redemption and sin-offering. He does this so that every human being,

loved by Him can live with Him for all eternity. Therefore, it is a contraction not to love one's neighbor, those for whom God the Son suffered and died. In both Old Testament and in the New, the meaning of the word love: agape, is very specific: it means radical self-giving, self-sacrificing love.

As we go forward to the elections, which are now a short time away, remember that the Book of Life, the Good News, is not written by Democrats, nor by Republicans, nor is it their party platforms. Indeed, we are called to bring the Book of Life, the Good News as our measure of their platforms and the persons who are running for office. I am going to ask you to commit yourselves this week to pray the Rosary each day for our Nation- for we are in great chaos. Ask our Lady to guard us and to ask the Holy Spirit to guide us. Also fast this week in reparation for our Nation asking God to make us once again: One Nation, under God, with Liberty and Justice for all!