

Homily — 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, B 2018
by Rev. Bob Schramm, OSFS

Rick Gaillardetz

What we encounter in the double commandment is not merely a moral imperative: If one loves God, one *ought* to love one's neighbor. No, here Jesus makes a more basic claim: one *cannot* love God and not love one's neighbor, since the love of God is realized, in large part, precisely in one's love of neighbor. This double commandment binds together the life of worship and our daily conduct toward others, and it shines a harsh light on any false piety divorced from our care of others.

Stump

What person among us loves God with all his heart? Who loves his neighbor as himself? If obeying these commandments is the most important thing for getting into heaven, what hope is there for anybody?

The answer is – Jesus. He is the Savior who came to rescue people from their failures to obey the most important commandments. All true hope of the kingdom of heaven lies in him.

Darring

Idolatries that infect our public life:

worship of the almighty dollar,
adoration at the altar of capitalism,
religious reverence for “the American way of life.”

Jesus didn't make any exceptions to love your neighbor as yourself ...
except prisoners;
except prostitutes.

Rahner

Humans only are (fully human) when they give themselves away.

SFS

Just as we are the image and likeness of God, so our wholesome love for one another is the true image of our love for God.

Fuller

Reading 1: heart, soul and strength do not mean separate human faculties but the person in the totality of his/her being. Thus, the radical nature of God's claim on Israelite obedience is emphasized.

Jesus understands the interconnection between the two commandments in a quite radical sense. Love of God is illusory if it does not issue in love of neighbor, and love of neighbor is refined self-love if it does not proceed from the love of God.

Huck

First reading should have concluded with:

“Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away; when you lie down and when you rise.” (6:7, NRSV). We are into something very important, but very at-risk.

In all humility, the homilist can point out that:

- **The decisions we make on Tuesday are moral decisions.**
- **We are baptized people whose responsibility is to the poor, the weak, the children, the future of the planet.**
- **Day-by-day, we American citizens are making life harder and shorter for so much of the world and perhaps impossible for generations that would follow us.**

McGlone

The first commandment teaches that it is not enough to know about God, as if philosophy and theology could substitute for a personal relationship with the God who loves us. The second commandment reminds us that love of God isn't just a beautiful, mystical feeling. If it is true, it has consequences that make a real difference in the lives of others.