

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

November 4, 2012

How must you love your God? With your whole “heart.” Respond to God with all the fire and all the passion that you can muster. With your whole “soul.”

Respond to God with all the vitality and all the awareness that mark a person into whom God has breathed life. With all your “strength.” Respond to God with that deep inner drive you can scarcely suppress. To these three faculties Jesus added a fourth: “love God with your entire mind.” Love God intelligently with common sense that plans and looks ahead. Together, the four fashion a total person, a woman or man fully alive, fully in love.

And your neighbor? You have to love your neighbor like another self. But at the Last Supper Jesus took the commandment one step further: “Love one another as I have loved you.” Not as before. Love the way I have loved you. A love that identified with us, a love that forgave us, a love that was crucified for us. Love of neighbor as manifested by Jesus cannot be separated from the love of God. If you want to love God, love the women and men who people your everyday life. Jesus promised: “Do this and you shall live.”

Today we begin Stewardship month. Thanks to your tremendous generosity and support, our parish has been able to do some very wonderful things. Thanks to your generosity we’ve been able to build this parish in just three years and at the same time support the 240 low-income residents in this 105-year old building. I invite you now to sit back and listen to this Stewardship message from Archbishop Peter Sartain. I hope that his focus on Stewardship will inspire in all of us a strong commitment to love of God and neighbor.

<http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Stewardship/PS/stewardship.aspx>

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