

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

- Wednesday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time
- Memorial of Saints Cornelius and Cyprian, Martyrs



First Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13

Brothers and sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 4, 5

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Give thanks to the Lord on the harp;
with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.
Sing to him a new song;
pluck the strings skillfully, with shouts of gladness. **R/.**

For upright is the word of the Lord,
and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right;
of the kindness of the Lord the earth is full. **R/.**

Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.
May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us
who have put our hope in you. *R/.*

Gospel: Luke 7:31-35

Jesus said to the crowds: "To what shall I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children who sit in the marketplace and call to one another,

'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance. We sang a dirge, but you did not weep.'

For John the Baptist came neither eating food nor drinking wine, and you said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and you said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

Reflection

Love is patient, love is kind. (1 Corinthians 13:4)

Today's first reading is one of the most popular passages chosen for weddings. And for good reason. Not only does it provide a very practical description of love, but it's also a reading that we can all relate to, since God created us for love.

But look at the list of all the ways we're supposed to love — be kind and patient, rejoice with the truth, bear all things. If we're honest, we know that we come up short pretty often. And on top of our imperfect efforts to love, we have to accept other people's imperfect efforts to love us. Those especially close to us can disappoint us the most, leaving us feeling unappreciated or hurt.

The good news is that there is a love that never fails — God's love. It's the one love you can count on when all other loves fall short. It is a love that will never abandon or take advantage of you. It's a love that envelops you, lifts you up, and carries you through good times and bad. It's a love that knows how much we struggle to love and yet doesn't condemn us — a love that applauds our every effort to grow in love.

By contrast, our approach to love is often immature, like the childish thinking Paul talks about. We are prone to mistake infatuation, sex, or expensive gifts for love. Age and experience can help us wise up, but the only thing that will truly teach us about love is God — who is himself love! Through him, we learn that the less we focus on the way people are (or are not) loving us and the more we focus on the way we are loving them, the more we will experience his love.

Every day, God gives us countless ways to encounter his love: in prayer, in nature, in our loved ones, and even in our enemies. He also gives us countless opportunities each day to share his love. So pay attention and keep your heart soft. Follow Paul's advice and "pursue love" wherever you see it (1 Corinthians 14:1). If you do, you'll find that God in his love has always been pursuing you.

Lord, shower me with your perfect love so that I can learn how to love perfectly.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament
I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.