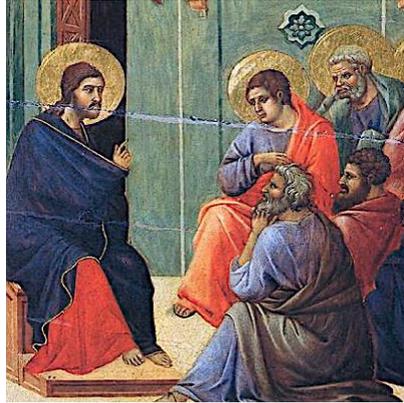


31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THE GOSPEL Mark 12:28b-34

*Jesus replied, ... you shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart.*

Christ,
so we never forget,

write on our hearts
that you want us to love you
with our whole soul, our whole mind,
and our whole understanding,
and with every ounce
of our strength.

And let our love for you
spill over to our
neighbor.

And let
all of our
love of neighbor
come back to you.

So that all things work together
when we love God.

THE FIRST READING Deuteronomy 6:2-6

*Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength.*

Jesus,
what does it mean?
to love with all my heart,
all my soul and all my strength?

I stand in awe before this commandment.

Teach me how to love all people.
Give me your grace to learn
that love sacrifices
everything.

THE SECOND READING. Hebrews 7:23-28

*He is always able to save those who approach God through him,
since he lives forever to make intercession for them.*

Not
in some history book in eons past,
but in our lives, in our times,
now, today and all days,
you, Christ Jesus,
offer yourself
for us.

Jesus,
plead our case,
please,
every
day.

Reflection

All the Time and Everywhere

How little merely human insight avails!

This good lawyer speaks well of holy things and yet the comment of Jesus is that he is *not far* from the kingdom. He speaks high wisdom yet he is not *inside*, merely near. This should warn us not to overrate what we think we know of Jesus. All that matters ultimately is that we live it.

When we hear those great, solemn, beautiful words intoned—"Listen O Israel . . . You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, with all your mind and all your strength"—we can feel deeply moved. They resound in our soul as the very meaning of life.

But what are we actually doing to live out this totality of love which constitutes the very existence of Jesus himself?

The love of God is almost impossible to evaluate. Love of neighbour is the only guide to its existence, let alone its depths.

It is only in loving our neighbour that we can be set on loving God all the time and everywhere. There is no meaning to our human existence but this.

The more earnestly we want to surrender to God, the more determinedly we must work to love our neighbour. (Sr. Ruth Burrows, from her book: *Living Love*)

