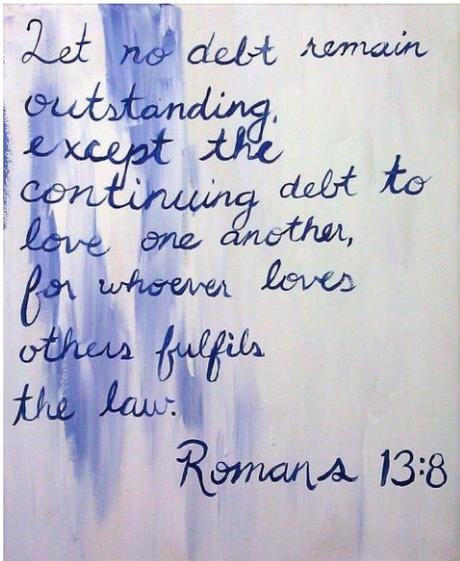




ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY September 10 & BEYOND

A Debt We Cannot Repay



“Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law,”
(Romans 13:8).

I remember my first car, which was a '65 Pontiac Tempest convertible. It originally belonged to my dad who had driven it for years. My only responsibility was paying for the car insurance, and driving errands for my parents. I gave the convertible a special name after one winter I spent in DeKalb, IL. It was a very cold and windy winter, and we'd just experienced quite a blizzard. I walked

out to my car one day, to see someone sitting in the front seat! I was afraid that I would find someone who had become stranded in the storm.

When I walked out to the car, I opened the door to find some snow had pushed through the crack between the door window and the convertible top. The 'person' sitting in the front seat was actually a snow man! So much snow had gathered in the front seat that it looked like a human being was sitting there. I could have added some coal, a pipe and top hat and called him Frosty. Instead, I'd call my car the Snowman-mobile.

So, my first debt was pretty small. For many people debt comes when they may drive off a car lot or sign the mortgage on a new home. It can be a frightening moment when you sign your name on the dotted line. There's something about endless monthly payments that make us nervous.

That's what I think of when I read this passage from Romans. “Owe no one anything, except to love one another.” I would love to live debt free with the exception of Christ's love. His love for us is a debt I can never repay. But, it is a love that I can share with others. On the night he was betrayed Jesus taught his disciples, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34).

Love is Jesus' new commandment and final teaching. It fulfills the old law, and embodies the Ten Commandments. The summary of the law is to love God and love one another as Christ has loved us. To love as Christ loved us is greater than I can comprehend and stronger than I can bear.

We are told: "Never a borrower or lender be," because we know what it does to a friendship. If we lend or borrow money it changes our relationship. It can add discomfort or tension. Personally, I would want to pay it back as quickly as I can. I'd want to set a schedule and get ahead of the payments. I'd mark the day of the last check, placing a big smile on the calendar.

As Christians, we are called to live as joyful givers, generous with the love of God for one another. "Love does no wrong to a neighbor," (John 13:10). Our lives should reflect the right that we do to one another, freely without resentment. Giving without asking in return, generously with no payments or expectations, for God in Christ has given so freely that we can only open our hearts in the same manner.

Father Steven L. Schuneman

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
 10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—*

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer - St. Mary's Chapel (Temporarily Cancelled)
 9:30a Mass - St. Mary's Chapel (Temporarily Cancelled)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
www.allsaintschurch.org