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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY — October 29, 2023

“The True Christian Love.”



In a world where the word *love* has been so often misused and manipulated to conform to someone's or a group's self-centered interests, it becomes more urgent than ever to clarify what the word that has been translated into *charity* and *love* actually meant and means for the true followers of Christ.

Charity is the English word that was first used as the equivalent for the Latin word *caritas*, which is the way in which the Greek word *agape* was rendered in Latin.

What this word meant for the New Testament writers, who used Koine Greek in their writings because that was the *lingua franca* of the time, is what it meant for all those who spoke that language: not so much a feeling or sensation, but a concrete way of relating to and acting toward the other—one in which justice, mercy, and loving care manifested itself in concrete words and actions. The essence of *agape* is its unconditional character, its total inclusiveness and impartiality. It is also used to refer to God's love for all.

The New Testament writers also used the word *phileo* to refer to the kind of affection that was present among members of the same family, or friends, or between a master and his disciples. In some cases the distinction between the two terms is not so clear when referring to the mutual love that was professed among the followers of Christ.

When the word *charity*, through its use in charitable works, became associated more exclusively with this kind of activity, more modern translations of the Bible began to use the English word *love* in its place. This word probably speaks more to the contemporary reader and listener of God's Word, but its use by so many other people to refer to a kind of affection which excludes certain groups in favor of others, or that simply includes the group of people that they favor or like, may result in confusion and deceit.

Even saying out loud or writing on a big poster that you love the whole universe does not guarantee that your actual words and actions in specific circumstances—particularly when faced with people you may dislike a lot—translate into the unconditional loving care that these words imply. Unfortunately there is a modern tendency to be so “universal” in our proclamations that it all comes down to mere high-sounding words, with no actual concrete manifestations in people's lives.

When Jesus replied to the Pharisee's question about the greatest commandment in the law, He used quotes from two different books of Moses' Law—He did not invent anything, but He was not thinking in abstract terms at all. The Jews did not use abstractions in their language. They would not say, “Love the Lord your God with your whole being”, but “with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” That clearly showed that it was not an abstract kind of affection, but one that went to the very depths of your feelings, the essence of your very life, and the core of all your thoughts.

And “you shall love your neighbor as yourself” is not an abstraction either. It is a definite way of loving the ones you come in contact with, doing to them exactly as you would have others do to yourself. Who would like others to mistreat them, or neglect or ignore them when they are in need? No one for sure.

Through the practice of *charity*, this love that makes no distinctions, and that is put into practice not only when it is comfortable or convenient to do so, but at all times that it is needed, we may even come to relate to others in a fashion that resembles the deep affection that Christ feels for all His followers, for all of humanity, and for all the creatures on this planet.

This is what St. Paul expresses in his First Letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 2, when he says, “though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had the courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition.”

And further on he expresses, “So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.”

The constant practice of *agape* makes us come to have a deep affection for all those entrusted to our care. Such is also the true Christian love.

Fr. Carlos

Readings for The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 22:21-27 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Psalm: 1 Matthew 22:34-46

CALENDAR

Note: We continue worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer at 10:00am are held in All Saints’ St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY October 29, 2023 The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am Mass in All Saints’ Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Christian Formation Meets next on November 12

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Flower Room. Taught by Fr. Carlos

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY November 5, 2023 All Saints Day

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally

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