

Living the Law of Love

By Fr. Paul Portland, SDS

June is the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and we celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart on June 7th this year. The heart is a common symbol of love in our culture. Just think of Valentine's Day and all the heart shaped candy. Very often a wedding program will have an image of two hearts intertwined.

The heart is an excellent symbol for Jesus and what He was all about. It was out of love that we were created and out of love that Jesus came to redeem us, after we had turned away from God's love. Love was the driving force in how Jesus lived his life. Think of Matthew, a shunned tax collector, whom Jesus called to be a disciple; Zaccheus, another shunned tax collector for whom Jesus showed acceptance by going to his house to eat; the woman caught in adultery, whom Jesus refused to condemn; the lepers and others cured by Jesus who had diseases that cut them off from society, like the woman with the hemorrhage; and the list goes on.

All of this can be summed up in the one command that Jesus gives us: love one another, as I have loved you. We need to remember that the key to being a Christian is doing our best to live as Jesus did, so that the heart is also an apt symbol for us. Religious observance, receiving the sacraments, building a personal relationship with the Lord through prayer, etc. are an essential part of our lives as Catholics. But they need to be helping us grow in our ability to live as Jesus did by being patient, forgiving, generous, understanding, compassionate, and so on.

As we remember the Sacred Heart of Jesus this month, let us pray that we may always be growing in our ability to emulate Jesus by living the law of love.

God bless.

Fr. Paul



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