



The Other Side of Love

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

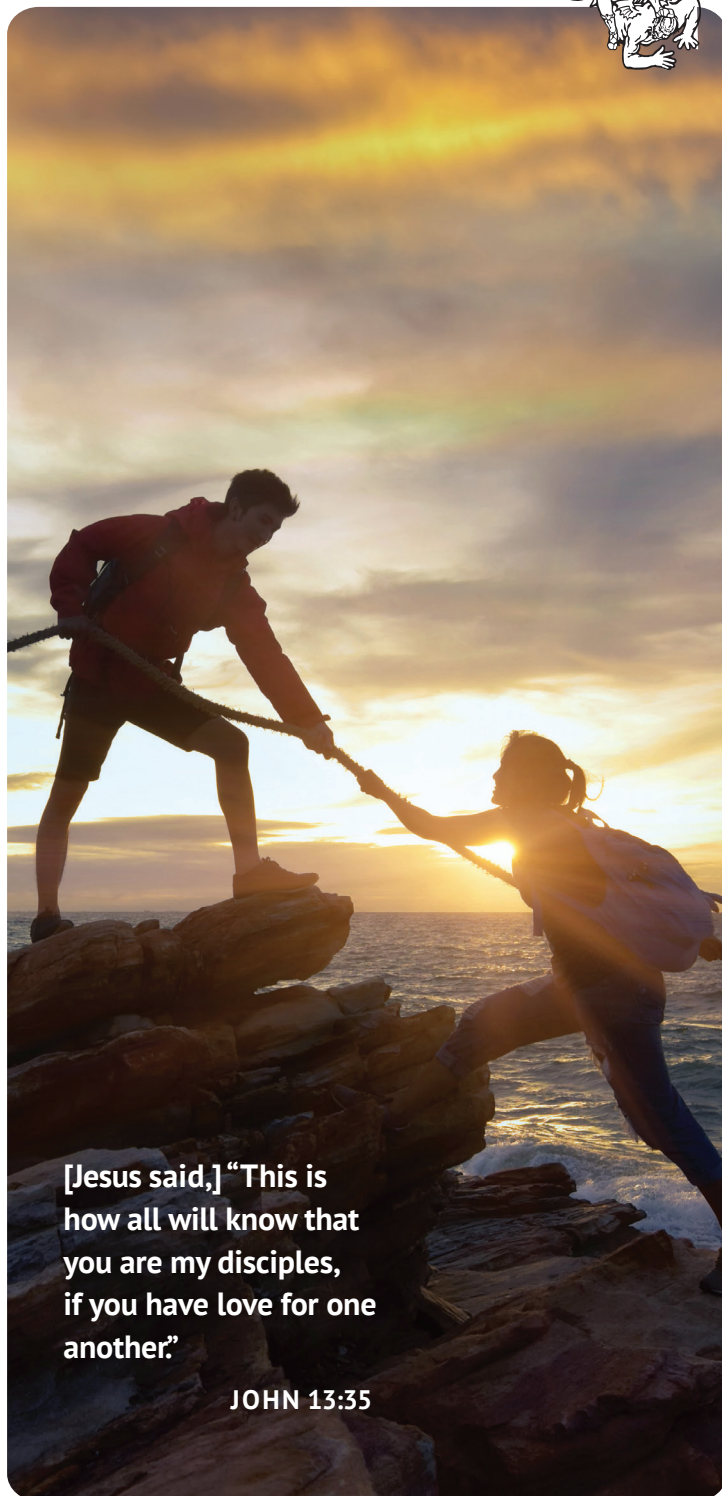
We have an instinct to love; this is something woven into the foundation of human life. It's also a godly instinct, for anything embedded into the human spirit with such intensity must surely be of God. In fact, it is how God is creating a new heaven and a new earth, thereby making all things new as is written in the Book of Revelation. So intense is that inclination to love, we read in the first letter of John that God is love. While our culture tends to romanticize love, the reality is that, all too often, if we are seriously committed to loving someone, it can also be a lonely effort. Love is not always romantic or satisfying.

At times, it can be demanding and even harsh. One day, when I was meeting with an engaged couple in preparation for their marriage, I asked them, as I often do, for their definition of love. Usually, couples are tongue-tied when I ask that question. They know they're in love, and, to them, that seems to be enough. This time, however, the young groom-to-be did not hesitate. He said that love is caring for someone even when they are unlovable—an insightful definition, for it is precisely during such times that we need someone's love. It is the weakest moments of life that are in need of rebuilding, the loneliest moments of life that are in need of someone reaching out a hand, and the darkest moments of life that are in need of light. When that happens, creation is made new. ●

Reflect

What is my definition of love?

How do I live it?



[Jesus said,] "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

JOHN 13:35



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

53 South Road, Paget PG 03 | P.O. Box HM 727, Hamilton HM CX

Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley, Vicar General • Cell: 705 0236

Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & "LIKE" us | Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

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Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES ...

MAY 17/18th - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM Lector: Karen Marsh EM: Sara Peniston
10:15AM Lector: Cherry Ramdass EM: Willie Forbes
 Collection: Karen Marsh

MAY 24/25th - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM Lector: Laura DeFrias EM: Karen Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Jesse Almeida EM: Joyce Lee
 Collection: Carlos DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS ...

MAY 17/18th - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM Adelina & Jose DeFrias ++
 Mary & Benjamin Botelho ++
10:15AM Theresa Ramdass +

MAY 24/25th - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM St. Michael's Parishioners
10:15AM Pope Leo XIV



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

MAY 10/11th COLLECTION:
\$822.00

Thank you for your generosity.

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
 to St. Michael's Church's: BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

WHEN MAKING YOUR ONLINE TRANSACTION, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND "COLLECTION" AS YOUR MEMO ON YOUR BANKING TRANSACTION.

Bishops Corner ...

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

In his last prayer intention for 2025, Pope Francis invited us to pray during the month of May "For working conditions." Due to his death, the format for the video accompanying this prayer intention has changed. It offers for our reflection a few words on this topic from the last three Popes - John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis.

The Pope's Video for May, produced with the support of the Chamber of Commerce of Rome and the Fondazione PRO Rete Mondiale di Preghiera del Papa, and distributed by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, invites us to pray "that through work, each person might find fulfil-ment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized."

Accompanying the Pope's words are images that combine different lived experiences revolving around the world of work. First, we see a carpentry workshop with a 19th century statue of St. Joseph the Worker hand-carved from linden wood by a master craftsmen from Val Gardena; various shots from the International City of Loppiano where work is experienced from the per-spective of communion: a ceramic studio, an agricultural cooperative and a company specializ-ing in the packaging and finishing of a variety of items. Other images portray the exploitation millions of workers experience in various parts of the world.

It is like another testament of Pope Francis to our times.

Watch the Pope's Video for May 2025: <https://tinyurl.com/yc282kbz>

Have a serene weekend and a blessed week!

+ Wes Jurek
 Bishop Wes



our church maintenance update ...

We are Happy to report there has been significant progress on the extensive list of projects accomplished in and around the Church and in the Hall. Your Maintenance Collection funds are being put to good use for supplies and professionals to get these projects completed.

Our sincere thanks to Paul Clinton who has dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours on numerous projects and overseeing professionals to make a significant improvements in and our Church.

Paul so far has scraped, primed and painted the main Hall; organized work on the driveway drain to stop the flooding; sanded and redone the cedar on the Verandah; worked on abating the mold and musty smell in the kitchen and Hall; organized for King's Plumbing to repair all toilets, bathroom sinks and the kitchen sinks, so now everything is in working order! Thank you King's Plmbing.

Our sincere thanks for your continued generosity each month toward to Maintenance Collection. Our most grateful appreciation to Paul Clinton for all his hard work, dedication and stewardship hours shared for the benefit of our Parish community.

Pastor's Point . . .

POPE LEO XIV'S MOTTO AND COAT OF ARMS

Pope Leo XIV reveals his coat of arms and motto, which clearly reflect his Augustinian roots.

By Vatican News

Pope Leo XIV's coat of arms offers a clear reflection of his Augustinian roots and the values he seeks to promote during his pontificate, particularly unity and communion within the Church.

The shield is divided diagonally into two sections. The upper half features a blue background with a white lily. The lower half of the shield has a light background and displays an image that recalls the Order of Saint Augustine: a closed book with a heart pierced by an arrow. This is a direct reference to the conversion experience of Saint Augustine himself, who described his personal encounter with God's Word using the phrase: "*Vulnerasti cor meum verbo tuo*" - "You have pierced my heart with your Word."

The motto

Pope Leo XIV has also chosen a motto that reflects this Augustinian tradition: *In Illo uno unum*, which means "In the One, we are one." The phrase is taken from Saint Augustine's *Exposition on Psalm 127*, where he explains that "although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one."

In a 2023 interview with Vatican News' *Tiziana Campisi*, then-Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost spoke about the significance of this motto: "As can be seen from my episcopal motto, unity and communion are truly part of the charism of the Order of Saint Augustine, and also of my way of acting and thinking," he said. "I believe it is very important to promote communion in the Church, and we know well that communion, participation, and mission are the three key words of the Synod. So, as an Augustinian, for me promoting unity and communion is fundamental."



Saint Augustine's reflection on Psalm 127 highlights the theological foundation of this idea. "Christ - head and body - is one single man. And what is the body of Christ? His Church," Augustine writes. He then adds, "Although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one. We are many and we are one - because we are united to Him, and if our Head is in heaven, the members will follow."

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-05/pope-leo-xiv-s-motto-and-coat-of-arms.html>



WORDS OF LIFE:

"Without a foundational, practical formation, it is difficult for our consciences to guide us well in concrete situations. As Catholics, we have the immense gift of the teaching authority of the Catholic Church and can turn to it for help forming our consciences. For example, learning about Christian moral principles, reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church, or researching what the Church says about a challenging teaching will help us grow in knowledge of the truth."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Understanding Conscience"

Dear Padre,

I have gay/homosexual friends and coworkers. How do I respond appropriately when they announce they got married or are engaged, as we Catholics do not believe in same-sex marriage?

Context and perspective are always useful and necessary. It is also important to remember that your beliefs can often conflict with another person's belief system. It does not change the truth of what you believe, but it can be sobering. When you offer someone congratulations, it does not mean you are giving your approval or acceptance. It just means you are engaging in respectful social protocol. Let's assume that most people are mature enough to understand the difference between acceptance and protocol. Confusion arises when some people insist that you cannot be "both/and," as they reduce everything to "either/or." With this kind of perspective, life is a battle to be fought rather than an opportunity to live a life of graciousness and thanksgiving that invites us to celebrate. Be respectful. Be gentle. Be loving. Be compassionate. Each of those virtues speak much louder than judgment, rigidity, and a posture that proclaims, "I am better than you." ●



Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / Dear Padre.org

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

Please be advised that due to Bishop Wes' travels, there will be **NO PORTUGUESE MASS** at St. Patrick's on Wednesdays: May 21st and 28th, nor at St. Theresa's on Saturdays: May 17th and 24th.

St. MICHAEL'S

- EMMAUS Bible Study Tuesdays, at 3:00pm in the Pastor's Office
- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
 - First Penance** - Saturday, June 14th, at 2pm
 - First Holy Communion** - Sunday, June 22nd, time to be determined (after 12pm)

St. THERESA'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
12:10 Mass is celebrated each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- The Cemetery Mass for our deceased loved ones and friends will take place on Saturday, 31st May at 11am.**

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday - Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- The Rosary is recited every, WEDNESDAY at 10:00am
- The Rosary and Adoration takes place every, THURSDAY at 7:30am
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP is open, TUESDAYS and SATURDAYS 10:00am-2:00pm



Our PIZZA DINNER BINGO

- FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

will be held on Saturday, JUNE 14th following the 5pm Mass.

Adults Tickets: \$20 and **Children 10 & Under:** \$15. Each include ONE (1) Bingo Card. Additional cards will be \$5 each. Volunteers to help are encouraged, please email stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com if you can assist.

There will be wine, beer, sodas, and juice for the children. Donations of your favourite cookies, brownies or something similar, for finger friendly dessert.

If you would like to donate a prize, THANK YOU in advance. Bingo games will include one for the Kids, and one to celebrate Father's Day, and much more.

There will be a Door prize and some great Raffles for \$1 a ticket.

Tickets are available before and after Mass, or by emailing stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com.



AFTERNOON HERITAGE TEA

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH in Somerset will be hosting an Afternoon Heritage Tea on Sunday, 18th May, 2025, from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., at the St. James Church Hall in Somerset – Tea, Entertainment, Raffles, Silent Auction:

Tickets: \$45 can be obtained by contacting **Liz Card**, at 234-0872 or **Email: lizatstjosephs@gmail.com**

BINGO FOR SENIORS

ST. ANTHONY CHURCH Bingo for Seniors will be held on Saturday June 28 in St. Anthony's hall from 1 pm to 2 pm. Everyone who attends is asked to bring one food dish -- either sandwiches or a dessert. **Bingo cards will be \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Blackout cards will be \$5 each.** Kindly notify **Annette Boyle** at 517-9385 if you intend to come for a fun afternoon.

QUOTE FROM POPE LEO XIV.

Taken from a FaceBook post that starts with:

I like him already:

" Brothers, sisters...

I speak to you, especially to those who no longer believe, no longer hope, no longer pray, because they think God has left.

To those who are fed up with scandals, with misused power, with the silence of a Church that sometimes seems more like a palace than a home.

I, too, was angry with God.

I, too, saw good people die, children suffer, grandparents cry without medicine.

And yes... there were days when I prayed and only felt an echo.

But then I discovered something:

God doesn't shout. God whispers.

And sometimes He whispers from the mud, from pain, from a grandmother who feeds you without having anything.

I don't come to offer you perfect faith.

I come to tell you that faith is a walk with stones, puddles, and unexpected hugs.

I'm not asking you to believe in everything.

I'm asking you not to close the door. Give a chance to the God who waits for you without judgment.

I'm just a priest who saw God in the smile of a woman who lost her son... and yet she cooked for others.

That changed me.

So if you're broken, if you don't believe, if you're tired of the lies...

come anyway. With your anger, your doubt, your dirty backpack.

No one here will ask you for a VIP card.

Because this Church, as long as I breathe, will be a home for the homeless, and a rest for the weary.

God doesn't need soldiers.

He needs brothers.

And you, yes, you... are one of them."

Robert Prevost (Leo XIV)



Our Sunday Readings

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 14:21-27
 PSALM 145:8-13
 REVELATION 21:1-5a
 JOHN 13:31-33a,34-35

New and Glorified

REVELATION 21:1-5a

Reading closely

1. How is God portrayed in this passage?
2. What do you think belongs to the *old order*?
3. How do you imagine everything becoming new?
4. How will God's presence in the future be different from the way God is with us now?
5. What in this passage most captures your imagination?

Living the word

6. What feelings does this vision evoke in you?
7. What do you want God to make new in your life?
8. How can you help God renew creation?

THE SECOND READING

All is made new

This passage offers hope to those Christians who were being persecuted or were struggling to prevent the dominant Roman culture from eroding their faith.

Earlier in this book the earth and sky flee the risen Christ when he comes as judge because creation is so corrupted by sin that it knows it won't be judged favorably (20:11). In the vision

we hear today God brings forth a new creation, where at last God's reign is all-encompassing. *The old order has passed away*: evil will not be in any part of God's new world.

In the ancient world the **sea** was so dangerous that it symbolized chaos and death. The sea was a reminder that God's reign hadn't fully come about. When John writes that *the sea was no more*, he makes it clear that God will at last expel evil from every part of creation.

The new Jerusalem, bride of the Lamb

Jerusalem was the holiest place on earth for Jews because it was home to their one temple. As the symbol of God's presence, the temple was the only place Jews could bring their sacrifices. This temple was destroyed in 70 AD, before the Book of Revelation was written.

Jerusalem and its inhabitants were frequently personified as a bride wedded to God. In this passage Jerusalem is again presented as a bride, and her husband is the Lamb, the risen Christ (21:9). God gives his people to the Lamb, who await her not in heaven but on earth. Heaven and earth, the previously separate realms of God and humankind, are now united forever.

JOHN 13:31-33a, 34-35

Reading closely

1. Why do you think Judas leaves at this point in his relationship with Jesus (v.30)?
2. What might the disciples be thinking as Jesus speaks of his *glorification*?
3. How might the disciples respond when Jesus indicates he's leaving?
4. How do you think the disciples react to Jesus' commandment to *love one another*?
5. Do you think the disciples think this commandment is easy or difficult?
6. In what ways do you think Jesus wants the disciples to show their love?

Living the word

7. When have you been impressed by the love one person showed another?
8. Could anyone say they were impressed by the love you showed someone?
9. Do you think Christian love has an impact on people's belief in God?
10. Whom do you need to love more fully?

THE GOSPEL READING

Farewell speeches

This passage is part of Jesus' last formal speech to his disciples. In works of that era it was common for significant people to be shown giving a farewell address. The Old Testament includes the last formal addresses of Jacob (Genesis 49), Moses (Deuteronomy 33), and Joshua (Joshua 23-24).

Such farewell speeches were given in anticipation of a person's forthcoming death. They included words of consolation, promises about the future, blessings, and instructions about how to behave.

Jesus' farewell address in John 13-17 includes all of these elements. It begins when he washes his disciples' feet, includes his promise to send the holy Spirit, and concludes with a prayer.

Farewell speeches evoke for future generations the authority of the people who once spoke them. As we hear Jesus' last formal words, we hear also the voice of the risen Christ, speaking to us today.

Now is the Son of Man glorified

At its simplest level the term *son of man* means a *human being*. However, the term is also used in Daniel 7:13-14 to refer to the one to whom God gives power and authority over all the nations.

Jesus speaks of his crucifixion and resurrection as a *glorification* of God.

- The crucifixion is not a terrible humiliation but a revelation of God's perfect love
- The resurrection reveals God's defeat of sin and triumph over evil

Jesus himself is also glorified because God restores him to his heavenly origins. God sent Jesus to reveal his love. Once Jesus fulfills God's plan, God will draw him fully back into the divine life, and Jesus will share the glory of God.

Love one another

When Jesus washed his disciples' feet (13:1-15), he was both preparing them for his crucifixion and symbolically demonstrating how they should treat each other. The action of washing someone's feet was normally performed by a household slave. Jesus wants his followers to treat one another with humble, selfless love.

The followers of Christ must show self-giving love for one another so that others will be drawn to Jesus, and through Jesus, to God. The more people respond to self-giving love, the more God's love is revealed and the more God is glorified.

PRAYER

*Alternative Opening Prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Easter
(Roman Missal, 1985)*

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
you have revealed to the nations
your saving power
and filled all ages with the words of a new song.
Hear the echo of this hymn.
Give us voice to sing your praise
throughout this season of joy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.