Does my love for God make me more loving toward My Neighbors?



SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Pharisee asks Jesus for a ranking. Which commandment is the greatest? He wants a legal debate, a way to trap or divide. Jesus refuses to play that game.

He answers with the Shema, the prayer every Jew knew by heart: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. That is the first. Then he does something unexpected – he adds a second, from Leviticus: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Love of God and love of neighbor are not two separate lists. They are one.

Our first reading reminds us what that love looks like in practice. God says: do not oppress the alien, the widow, the orphan, the poor. If you do, their cry will reach me. Love of God that does not hear the cry of the vulnerable is incomplete.

St. Paul shows us a community that lived this. The Thessalonians turned from idols to serve the living God, and their faith became a model for others. Love became contagious.

We often try to separate the two loves. We are very "spiritual" in church but impatient at home, in traffic, or online. Or we are very kind to people but keep God at a distance.

This Sunday, Jesus puts them back together. The question is not, "Do I love God or my neighbor?" The question is, "Does my love for God make me more loving toward my neighbor?"



Have a Blessed Week!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza.
Pastor