

The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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January 31, 2010

Jeremiah 1: 4 – 5, 17 – 19

1 Corinthians 12: 31 – 13: 13

Luke 4: 21- 30

Today's long epistle from 1 Corinthians 12: 31 – 13: 13 might be one of the most recognized Scripture passages because it is often proclaimed at weddings.

It is the scripture about 1) our spiritual gifts, 2) a description of what charity is and 3) then how charity is highly praised. Perhaps these few lines will bring it to you: "Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous, () it is not quick-tempered, () it rejoices with the truth, () So faith hope and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love".

Our spiritual gifts are observable by our charity and can be described as **agape**, which is defined as the "regard" that God and Jesus have for all humanity. Agape is a compassionate love with no preference that God has for both Saints and Sinners. Another characteristic of agape is that it long lasting and kind and never fails.

The USCCB has just directed American Parishes to participate in a Postcard Campaign to highlight the plight of Immigrants, trafficked persons and those on the move. It is called "Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice". This is a perfect example of the agape love that this Scripture speaks to.

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Tom Hackim

Copywriter ~ Poet ~ Wordperson

www.hackimflorida.com

tom@hackimflorida.com

Office: 407-539-3076

Cell: 305-793-8335