

Daily Homily
Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian; Bishops, Martyrs
Memorial
24 Ordinary Time, Wednesday
16 September 2020
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

Today is one of the most popular readings in scripture... 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13: on love.

Just about every wedding one goes to, this is the reading you will hear. It is a classic. Nothing can top the profundity of the words and the depths of their lyricism.

This reading pushes against our current culture in a very real way. Many believe that love is a mere feeling. As long as I feel good about another person and that person makes me feel good, then that must be love. However, when that feeling is gone or fades away, well, then there is no more love and then there is no point in remaining with that individual. Time and again we see it out of Hollywood. Marriages that last for a week, a few months, a year or two. These very public figures have shaped the definition in the minds of some that “love” only lasts up until the first fight, the first struggle, the first rough patch, the first sacrifice. Once the “happiness” – whatever that is – is gone, then the marriage and the love is over.

This is not inspired. Actually, this kind of love is white toast. Bland, tasteless, and dry.

Catholic theologians define love as “willing the good of the other.” That simple, that profound, that challenging, that deep, this is love. Nowhere in that definition does it say “feelings” or “happiness” or even how love affects me, myself, and I. Though it does imply a giving away of me, myself, and I.

Think about that definition: willing the good of another. When we love another we want to see that other be fully alive. We want the other to succeed. We want the other to grow in virtue. We want to be, not only their cheerleader in this life, but also the cause of their canonization to sainthood in the life to come. This is love.

Our culture would say that “love is love.” This is relativism at its best. As Catholics we say, love is God. Not, love is a descriptive word for God. Love is a metaphor for God. We don’t say that love is kind of like what God does or what God wants. No, we do not say this at all. We say “love is God.” All love should lead us to God and God leads us to true, real, and authentic love. If love does not do this, then we should question if the love is true.

Think about the one and the ones you love. Think about those in your life whose good you are willing – you work at it, sacrifice for it, hope for it, long for it. You want them to succeed, to be holy, to gain heaven even. Think about them today. Pray for them today. Love is not always easy.

Given the past two days, the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross and Our Lady of Sorrows, see how your love for them is closely connected to Jesus’ love for us as he willed our good from the cross. The cross is ultimately the greatest sign of love... for there is no greater love than to lay one’s life down for a friend.