

June 14, 2105
11th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Cycle B
Father Larry Richards

Good Morning! Today we want to focus on the Second Reading and the Second Reading is where Paul talking about how he would rather die and be separated from the body so he could be with the Lord. Then he says, the one core in there that I want us to focus on that says, "Therefore, we aspire to please Him." Everything we need to do is to please God. We need to look at our core intention, our heart and so this is what I really want us to focus on for a moment. I want you to be focusing on this week. What is your core intention when it comes to your Almighty God? Is it fear or is it love? Now, Paul sat there and said he'd rather die. Now, I'm sure if I asked how many people here by the raising of their hands would rather die this afternoon than go do something else, I'm sure there wouldn't be many people who would raise their hands. There might be a few of you. I know, shut up. Most of you, the reality is, would go, "No, no, no. I don't think I want that." But, Paul says, "I desire to please Him" because one day I'm gonna stand before Him.

When we get to the core of God, the core of God's intention and the way He deals with us is out of love. Right? It isn't out of "I want a bunch of people to fear me. I want a bunch of people to just do My will." Think about it – if God only created us so we could serve Him and do His will and if we don't do it then He sends us to hell. Yeee! I don't even want to think about that kind of God. I don't want anything to do – just think about it. For all eternity He exists – "Oh, I just want some people to serve me so I think I'll create you." He created us so we would love Him.

So, the core of our goal – remember Jesus said in John 14:31, (I know you all know what that is), but John Chapter 14, verse 31 says, "The world must know that I love the Father and that I do everything to please Him. The world must know that I love the Father and that I do everything to please Him". Think of those of you who are married. You know, you don't do what you do for your spouse because you're afraid of them, do you? Well, most of you anyway – I know some of you are afraid of your wives. The reality is you do what you do because you love her or you love him. You don't do what you do because you're afraid of them, that they might kill you while you sleep. Right? Say, "Yes Father." Good – I'm just glad. You do what you do for them because you're in love with them and because you're in love with them, you desire to please them. Because you're in love with them, you desire to be with them. That's your goal. So the same with us and God – we need to do what we do because we're in love with Him. That's why I please Him. That's why I do what I do.

Now, most of us have a little bit of this and a little bit of that. When I posted this morning on Twitter you know, they said, "Well, you know I have a lot of fear and a little bit of love." OK – if that's true for you, then you ask God for a new heart today. Jesus, may I do everything I do to please You because I love You. Not may I do everything I do for You not so I go to heaven and I am a great saint. Years ago I was listening to a guy on TV and he's a very famous Catholic and he said, "What do you want to do?" He said, "I want to be a saint. I want to be a great saint – not just these mediocre saints – I want to be a great saint." I

thought, "Boy, he's pretty selfish." That's what I thought. I thought what a selfish man. He does what he does for him so "I can be a great saint. People will talk about me. People will pray about me." Hopefully that's now what he meant but that's what I took out of it. When we seek sanctity itself, it will never reach us. When we seek to please God, no matter what, then that's OK.

Remember, St. Paul says, it's amazing that he would hope that even if he was to be damned, he wants the other Jews to get to heaven. Think about that. Would you do what you do to please the Father even if you got damned? Now, of course, that's impossible but would you be willing to give up your eternal salvation so others could be saved. That's a great thing to think about. Do you do what you do for you or do you do what you do for love of Him?

So, everything God does, He does for love of us. Let's examine our conscience today and think, "What is my core intention – is it fear or is it love?" If it's more fear than it is love, then Jesus, change my heart that I may do everything I do to please You because I love You. That's what this is all about. We do what we do for love. May each of you know His love today and forever. Amen.