

Today we celebrate the thirty first Sunday of the ordinary time. The scriptural readings tell us today that we are created to love God in loving others and to love others in loving God. In other words, we are to love God living in others. Our prayers, all our spiritual activities, Sacraments, sacrifices are meant to help us grow in this relationship of love which He initiates with us and we, by His grace, accept.

The term love can be an abstract concept if it is not expressed thorough different ways and means. Because we cannot see the depth of love with our eyes, we cannot touch it but we can experience it if someone express that love. What Jesus says to us today is to express that love so that everyone can experiences it so as the love is the foundation of all relationships. A pure love is expressed not just with words but with concrete actions. God has created the whole world with His one word. But God did not love us not just with the word but with pure action. In the gospel of John 3: 16 we read “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...” God loved the humanity so much and expressed that love in a way that everyone understands. This is the kind of love that Jesus tells us today in the Gospel. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Michael Brennan was a homeless man who spent most of his nights sleeping in a cemetery near Harvard University. Brennan had used drugs since he was 13 and eventually became addicted to heroin. In 1990 after a detoxification program, he went to Boston determined to carve out a new life for himself. His motto was, “Don’t do drugs and see what happens.” He worked part-time moving furniture, but when he wasn’t working, like many homeless persons, he spent his time in the Boston public library where it was warm and hospitable. Unlike many of his kind, however, he began to take advantage of the library for more than a place to hang out. Knowing things had become the goal of his life, and knowing that he knew gave him a direction to pursue. From childhood, he had wanted to write. It was a passion with him. He found books about

freelance journalism. "I didn't even know where to put the address on a cover letter. I had to start with that," he said. Brennan learned all he could from how-to books in the library and then started to write. One day he was in Cambridge wandering the campus of Harvard University. He came across a room full of computers and asked a student if could use one of them. The young man said, "sure," and lent him some software. It was this act of kindness, this treatment that gave him some dignity, which Brennan says was crucial to his recovery. Treated with compassion instead of scorn, he used the Harvard computers. His first major article for a local newspaper netted him \$1,000 which put a roof over his head. Since that time, he has had articles published in *Newsweek* and other major magazines and papers as well as a book. (Dr. David Richardson). An unknown college student helped change this homeless man's life. Wouldn't you like to make a difference in someone's life like that? The word is love, Christ-like love. Love like the love that sent Christ to die on a cross for worthless folks like you and me.