



[The scribe said to Jesus,] “To love your neighbor as yourself’ is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

MARK 12:33

## Liking Versus Loving

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

“I never met a man I didn’t like.” Will Rogers said that. I can believe he said it, but I have a more difficult time believing he meant it. I don’t think he lied. I just find it hard to believe there could be a person who never disliked anyone.

Loving is something different, although there are many people who talk as if liking and loving are interchangeable. They love ice cream or country music, and they like their friends. One can love, that is, behave in a loving manner, without positive feelings. You couldn’t say that about liking, but about loving you can. Some folks say one of the reasons you should love others and do good for people is because of the good feeling you get when you help someone. The problem

with this is that when you no longer get a good feeling, you stop doing the good things. But as disciples of Jesus, love we must. It’s different than liking.

It seems to me the most difficult people to love today are the anonymous souls, the people we don’t know—the immigrant coming to our land, the person of another religion who prays differently, or those living a lifestyle foreign to us. Jesus didn’t have a problem with loving people like them. ●

### Reflect

***Who has loved you and who do you find most difficult to love?***

# Dear Padre,

*Do saints ever smile? That question comes to me every year on the feast of All Saints (November 1) as I look at the pictures and statues in church. The faces are so somber and serious. What are the saints really like?*

Artists through the centuries may have portrayed sanctity in very subdued tones. The saints, however, and their biographers tell a different story. The holy men and women who make up the communion of saints are an incredibly fascinating array of diverse personalities. The feast of All Saints celebrates our universal call to holiness. Our challenge is to imitate the characteristics these unique individuals have in common.

Saint Irenaeus (125–202) said that the glory of God is the human fully alive which reflects Jesus' own words, "I came so that they may have life; and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Saints enjoy life! The nearsighted St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696–1787), founder of the Redemptorists, sat in the back row of the Naples theater with his glasses off so he could enjoy the music he loved without the distraction of the half-naked chorus line. Saint Teresa of Ávila (1515–1582), caught devouring partridge in the convent kitchen, said, "When I pray, I pray; when I eat partridge, I eat partridge!" Saint Joan of Arc (1412–1431) loved horses, and St. Charles Borromeo (1538–1584) loved chess. Indeed, saints do smile. They even laugh. ●



Sculpture of a smiling Pope St. John Paul II outside the Saint John the Baptist Cathedral in Trnava, Slovakia.

ADAM JAN FIGEL / SHUTTERSTOCK

**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**



YARA NARDI / CNS

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*It is necessary that...the "great commandment," [love God and our neighbor] resound in us, that it be assimilated, that it become the voice of our conscience. This way, it does not remain a dead letter, in the drawer of the heart, because the Holy Spirit makes the seed of that Word germinate in us.*

ANGELUS, ROME, OCTOBER 31, 2021

### Monday

November 4

*St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop*

Phil 2:1–4

Lk 14:12–14

### Tuesday

November 5

*Weekday*

Phil 2:5–11

Lk 14:15–24

### Wednesday

November 6

*Weekday*

Phil 2:12–18

Lk 14:25–33

### Thursday

November 7

*Weekday*

Phil 3:3–8a

Lk 15:1–10

### Friday

November 8

*Weekday*

Phil 3:17–4:1

Lk 16:1–8

### Saturday

November 9

*Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*

Ez 47:1–2, 8–9, 12

1 Cor 3:9c–11, 16–17

Jn 2:13–22

### Sunday

November 10

*Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

1 Kgs 17:10–16

Heb 9:24–28

Mk 12:38–44 or 12:41–44