

# Why Community?

September 2021

- Living the life of a disciple with others
- Our ecumenical call
- A place to live out the “great command”
- “I found myself here” - God’s providence

# God's Providence

Mt 10 <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. <sup>30</sup> But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Lord, give what you command and command what you will"

**St Augustine**

“Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.” Ps119

“Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Ps 37

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.” Mt 5

Through grace working in our life, our will becomes aligned to God's will,

**AND**

God at the same time provides for us all we need to fulfil his will

Love of the brethren

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; <sup>33</sup> and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbour as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No man has ever seen God;

**if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.**

“If any one says “I love God” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whose he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen”

1Jn 4: 20

*[Jesus says to Catherine]*

*“I ask you to love me with the same love with which I love you. But for me you cannot do this, for I loved you without being loved. Whatever love you have for me you owe me, so you love me not gratuitously but out of duty, while I love you not out of duty but gratuitously.*

*So, you cannot give me the kind of love I ask of you.*

*This is why I have put you among your neighbours: so that you can do for them what you cannot do for me – that is, love them without any concern for thanks and without looking for any profit for yourself. And whatever you do for them I will consider done for me.”*

**Catherine of Siena 14th Century**

Bringing the two together:

God has provided for you the perfect brothers and sisters for you to love gratuitously, and to have love perfected in you

*“Do you know how you can tell when your spiritual love is not perfect? If you are distressed when it seems that those you love are not returning your love or not loving you as much as you think you love them.*

*Or if you are distressed when it seems to you that you are being deprived of their company or comfort, or that they love someone else more than you.*

*From these and from many other things you should be able to tell if your love for me and your neighbour is still imperfect...”*

**Catherine of Siena - Dialogues 14th Century**

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love ([agapas](#)) me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love ([philō](#)) you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, “Simon, son of John, do you love ([agapas](#)) me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love ([philō](#)) you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love ([phileis](#)) me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love ([Phileis](#)) me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love ([philō](#)) you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep”.

Why community?

well God has put me here and given me you to perfect his  
love in me - by his grace!