

St. Michael the Archangel
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Dear Parish Family,

Love your enemies, Jesus tells us today!

Have you ever given a serious thought of this most challenging kind of love? We are to love those who hate us, those who annoy us, who offend us, who cheat us, who threaten or who harm us in a million and one ways. And yet, it is even challenging to love the poor, the weak, the odd, the uneducated, the funny looking..... and it seems now so even more!

This type of love seems so impossible that when we hear it happening it becomes an extraordinary headline story. The story of the late Saint Pope John Paul II forgiving his would be assassin, the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin forgiving his false accuser. Maybe you have personally known someone who has shown and demonstrated this kind of love. When you hear these examples do you say to yourself, "I wish I can do that in my life."

You may have heard the saying, 'what makes us different is what makes us better'. The expression is used in many businesses but can we also apply this in our Christian faith? Of course we can! How? By living out and acting on this Christ-like love in our lives. Certainly it will make us different, make us better, and make us truly Christian!

In Jesus,

Fr. Dwight

P.S. Lent will soon be here with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd and this Lent we will return to sponsoring small, faith sharing groups based in parishioners' homes or on the Church campus like we held prior to the pandemic. This is a great way to join others parishioners in discussion groups as you go through Lent. Group meetings will be offered on various days and times. You will hear more about this at Mass this weekend and there help with registration but you can learn more now and register at www.smlj.org/open-our-hearts. We are excited to be able to once again offer these faith sharing groups.