

September 06, 2022

**Good morning Father,**

**Thank You for the gift of a new day and all the blessings that come with it. I just cannot even imagine where I would be today were it not for my family and that handful of friends who have given me a heart full of joy. Let's face it, family and friends make my life a lot more fun.**

**During the homily at Mass on Sunday, my soon-to-be five year old grandson asked; "grampa why did God make us? I had to fall back on the rote definition I learned in grade school. God made us to know, love, and serve Him in this life so we can be supremely happy with Him in the next. After church we dove into the subject a little deeper.**

**The reality truly is that You created us to be in relationships with You and with the people You put around us. We rarely get to choose our family members, co-workers, or neighbors but friends choose each other. And having close friends is an amazing blessing. And having someone we consider an excellent friend, well now that is a precious gift.**

**During the conversation to fully answer Adi's question, it occurred to me, that as a "disciple" of Jesus, the same principles apply in my human relationships. So knowing, loving, and serving people is inherent to me following Your will and fulfilling my purpose in Your grand plan.**

**Father, thank You for giving me the blessing of friendship. Thank You for each of my friends.**

**I'm sorry, Father, I've failed to love my friends the way You want me to. I can so easily hurry past moments when I could have listened with love. I can be selfish and prideful and slow to forgive. I'm sorry. Please forgive me.**

**Help me love the way You want me to. Help me love like You Jesus. I want to be the person You designed me to be. I want to encourage my friends to recognize the beauty that You placed within them. I want to**

be truthful and trustworthy, caring and encouraging, humble and forgiving.

I want to be the friend who loves well. Please help me, Lord. Make me an excellent friend. In Your name, Lord. Amen.

***The Etruscan***