

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
October 29, 2017
The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exodus 22:20-26 + 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10 + Matthew 22:34-40



Reflection by: Carol Van Billiard, OP

You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

When the Pharisees heard the response of Jesus to their question about the greatest commandment, what might have been their understanding of God? A patriarchal, punishing God somewhere “up there”? We in the 21st century have been gifted with the means to find a broader image of God. Years of searching by theologians, mystics, scientists and now technology have encouraged us to look for God beyond even our boxed in, earthbound views.

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The Pharisees’ concept of neighbor was quite narrow. Jesus tried to expand it with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Even so, the parameters of the world of that time were centered around the Mediterranean. Today we realize that we have 7.5 billion “neighbors”!

How do we deal with these two commandments in light of the mind-blowing knowledge we have today?