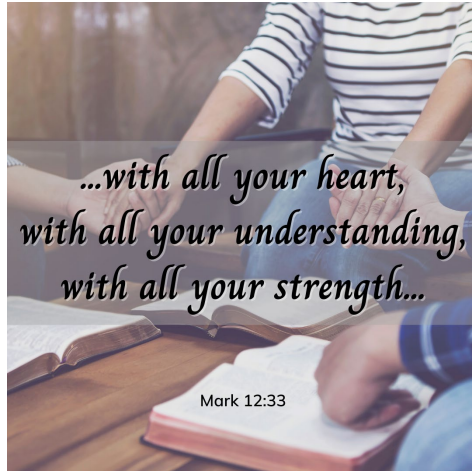


THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
October 31, 2021
Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deuteronomy 6:2-6 † Hebrews 7:23-28 † Mark 12:28b-34



Reflection by: Sister Pat Crowley, OP

If we were preparing for a course, we perhaps would want to know what was needed to pass. The Scripture gives us two very important clues: to love God and neighbor. "Easy enough," we say. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. We are loved unconditionally. If so, then love of neighbor will spill over to other people. What is my life made up of and to whom does it spill over?

The scribe says to Jesus, obeying these commandments is better, easier, than sacrifice. Jesus responds that the scribe is not far from the truth, perhaps with a twinkle in His eye. Mark doesn't tell us who our neighbors are. Are they not those who we will meet on the journey? Are we all things to all people or do we pick and choose?

The complete answer is we must have the eyes and heart of Jesus, to see the needs of others as Jesus sees them, to be listening as well as seeing. Pope Francis has noted that we must see the needs of others but must also extend ourselves to and for them. We must avoid, as he says, "being communities that have many initiatives but few relationships... 'service stations' but with little company."

(Pope Francis' Angelus, St. Peter's Square, November 4, 2018)