

Sunday September 4th readings: Wisdom leading to Detachment and true love.

Wisdom: The Wisdom Literature points us to Jesus Christ (The personification of Wisdom) / And Wisdom is to Love God before all material things.

Gospel / Luke: Wisdom begins with a love that detaches us from the material things that keep us from God's Love.

-In our 2nd Reading St. Paul writes from prison:

-To Philemon: "I am sending to you (Christian Community) Onesimus: Not simply as a slave, but as a beloved brother in Christ."

-Authentic Christian Love leads to human flourishing / Christianity eventually helps us to say no to all forms of slavery, including today's new form of slavery under the guise of "human trafficking."

-Back to Wisdom rooted in Love of God / What I like to tell kids in the Confessional: "When we give Jesus our hearts, He helps to remove those material things that keep us from His love / And from fully being loved / This Leads to happiness."

-Christ makes this revelation: "If anyone comes without giving up to me his own life, he cannot be my disciple." The Lord wants to give us a love that far exceeds mere human love for material things / This detachment that Jesus calls for opens us up to receive all that God is eager to give to us / AND OPEN TO BEING LOVED.

Notes:

-Jesus calls us to reject everything and everyone who would keep us from God. That includes sin, and of course, it might also include some friendships and relationships that are not healthy and perhaps harmful to our spiritual life in Christ.

-When speaking to youth about real love: Sometimes a person may say to you: if you REALLY love me...then

My Christian Response is: No, if you really love me / How about Sacrificial Chaste Respect before Marriage / And let us actually become "best friends" first, learning to talk with one another about our deepest wants, desires, and dreams...