

Love ONE ANOTHER

BY: ARCHBISHOP JEROME E. LISTECKI



Email not displaying? [View it in your browser.](#)

August 2, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today is August 2nd. It doesn't seem possible, but half of the summer is almost over. When you were young, you couldn't seem to wait for the days and years to go by. When you're older, time never seems to slow down. This last Sunday was a stark reminder of our vulnerability.

We tend to focus on the things of this world, even though we know that we were created for a world to come. It is not that we should ignore the present reality, but our ultimate focus should always be on doing what God would want from us, and in so doing preparing for what God has in store for us.

Many people talked about the Mega Millions Lottery and the billion plus dollars that they could win for a \$2 ticket. It's great to hear the wonderful things that people would do with the winnings. For the small price of \$2, one was encouraged to dream. But many of the good things that they mentioned could still be accomplished, although with proportionately less funds.

I have often thought that if people who have all these good intentions just put them into practice, maybe not with billions but just with a few dollars, that alone could significantly change our society and attitudes. When we examine the saints, we realize just how much they managed to accomplish with almost nothing – it was simply that they had Jesus as their priority.

How many people in your life do you know who would offer their life for you? Maybe parents for a child, maybe a spouse, a sibling or perhaps a dear, dear friend. All the responses were prefaced with a “maybe.” Yet Jesus did in fact lay down His life for you and for me. He would have died if you or I were the only ones in need of redemption, and He would have done it just as lovingly. The saints understood His sacrifice and

acted as the recipients of that love, in turn using their talents and sharing that love with others.

The Old Testament reading reminds us, “Vanity of vanities ... Here is the one who has labored with wisdom and knowledge and skill, and yet to another who has not labored over it, he must leave property.” Unless we understand the values of the relationships that we currently possess, our lives might be demanded and someone else will be enjoying the fruits of our labors or winnings.

Recall Jesus’ parable of the man with abundant crops, who instead of using it to enhance his neighbors and those in need, builds bigger storage space. He seems to be more “possessed” by his possessions, rather than possessing and using the goods of his labors. His life would be demanded, and he would never enjoy the bounty of his possessions.

Jesus is not demanding that we abandon possessions, but that we use them wisely. The person who has established God as his or her priority in life will always understand the nature of sharing, because all possessions are a gift from God. In the summer weeks ahead, we have an opportunity to enjoy the warmth of the season and the warmth of the relationships that we possess as a gift from God.

St. Paul offers, “Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” We will be ready whenever God calls us home if we live in gratitude for God’s love and do our best to LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Sincerely,

Most Revered Jerome E. Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee

