

**31st Sunday in
Ordinary Time
November 3-4, 2018**

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Living Catholic in the 808: Love 101

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Today's Gospel could be described as the synopsis of the basic course on love: Love 101. In this summary, Jesus makes three important points.

First, we must fall in love with God. Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J., former Superior General of the Jesuits, describes what this means: "Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, falling in love in a quite absolute and final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything." This is where real love must begin and be resourced. To begin to love in any other way is like building without a sure foundation. It is like leaving for a long trip and not stopping for gas.

Secondly, love of God, to be authentic, must result in love of others. We are created in the image and likeness of God, so when we love others we are loving God and vice versa. The scribe in the Gospel, as Jesus said, was not far from the reign of God. He was close, but not quite there. He affirmed the thesis that Jesus proposed but still needed to put it into practice.

Finally, we must love our neighbor as ourselves. You cannot give what you do not have. Much of the lack of love or sick love results when we deal with feelings of unworthiness or worthlessness by seeking counterfeit self-worth. Self-destructive behavior makes healthy self-love or love of others impossible.

Let us pray that God will inscribe these lessons of love in our hearts so that we will not only learn them but live them as well.

Let us also remember to lovingly keep in our prayers all the faithful departed who we especially remembered on All Souls Day and who we remember all during this month of November.