

The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 17-18, 2025

I will be with you only
a little while longer.

I give you a new commandment:

**LOVE
ONE
ANOTHER**

As I have loved you,
so you should love
one another

This is how all will know
that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.



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Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "You only love God as much as you love the person you love the least."

—Mother Teresa of Calcutta

6th Sunday of Easter

May 24-25, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, May 24 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, May 25 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, May 25 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, May 25 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen	James Mallaney David Kirkpatrick	Dave Ladehoff Cathy Jensen Jeff Martin Bob Buente	Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Joe Smolkovich Darren Lovell
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Rhonda Berns	Carrie Abrassart	Julie Splear
Eucharistic Minister			Natalie Mesewicz	
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Jerry Ogrentz R. Leader—The Peerboltes	Stacie Powers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, May 19 (SMM)

8:00 am +Pat & Mary Lou Fosnaugh (Jim/Linda Scanlon)

Tuesday, May 20 (SH)

8:00 am +Sondra & Owen Hertz (Steve/ Amy Hertz)

Wednesday, May 21 (SJ)

8:00 am (SJ) +Lester & Regina Offerman (Gerald/Mary Offerman)

Friday, May 23 (SMM)

8:00 am +Anne Gehrke (Jackie Eberle)

Saturday, May 24 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Bob Deany (The Family)
+Mary & Josph Schneider (Dennis/Janice Schnider)

Sunday, May 25

7:30 am (SH) +Aaron Mills (Deacon/Cindy Gagnon)
+Jerry Monk (Dale/Marilyn Pfeiffer)

9:00am (SJ) +Vaughn Peerbolte (Dennis/JoAnn Laurent)
+Pat Perreault (Gene/Pattie Storer)

10:30 am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

A Look Ahead

Change of plans/June 1-2— Fr. Allam's Mission Appeal

Question of the Week Who is entrusted to me in love? What have I done to reinforce and strengthen that bond between us?

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon — Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com
Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email — smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page — www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

Tri Parish Church office — Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Bulletin — Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education —

St. MM — Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

Sacred Heart — Rhonda Berns — 426-5015

St. James— Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com

Parish Nurse — Jackie Eberle — 815-421-4048

Prayer Line—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarms@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)

Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

Collections Weekend of May 3-4, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,897

Sacred Heart—\$2,078

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflections The Habit of Prayer

Prayer like any new habit demands that we remember to do it, and this is sometimes difficult. So it is helpful to set up a method to remind ourselves to pray.

- *A teacher prays every time a bell rings at school or the phone rings while home.*
- *A bank teller prays every time someone comes to his window.*
- *A woman whose favorite color is yellow prays whenever she sees something yellow.*
- *A doctor uses her prayer as she washes her hands before going on to her next patient and every time she enters a hospital room.*
- *Many people put pressure-sensitive labels or masking-tape reminders on the bathroom mirror, sink, refrigerator, phone, steering wheel, rear-view mirror.*
- *A lawyer put a sticker on his watch. Every glance at his watch reminds him to pray.*

Whatever helps you establish the habit is worthwhile. The need for these reminders ceases when you enter more deeply into the disciplined life of prayer.

Gospel Shorts A Different Kind of Glory

When we think of glory, we often think of something splashy and bright. The last thing we would think of is something like a cross. And yet, that is exactly what Jesus is talking about in this text. The glory of God is the cross of Christ.

In the cross, Jesus is with his people through the hurricanes of this life. In the cross, Jesus stands with us. It's not glory in the way we are used to it. It does not glow in the way we are accustomed.

Still, it glows in its own special way. It glows with the fire of God's love for the world. This is the "splendor veritatis," the "shining of the truth," which lights our world until Jesus comes.

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for May

Christ Our Lord,
risen Lord,
light of the world,
to you be all praise and glory!

Shine your light on us
this Easter season
so that we may reflect brilliantly
the glory of your resurrection.

Make us a blessing
for those who suffer,
live in fear or
who are overwhelmed by life.



And let the Spirit fill our hearts
with your loving presence
so that we may become
good stewards of your Gospel
out of love for you
who, for our sakes,
lived, died and rose from the dead;
you who live and reign
with your Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James

- ⇒ All are invited to Donut Sunday following mass on May 18th. If you'd like to bring a pastry/breakfast item to share please sign up on the bulletin board in the hall.

Sacred Heart-

- ⇒ The week of May 18th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for Pope Leo XIV and the St. Joseph candle burns in prayer for those who have left the church, that they may soon return.

All Parishes—

- ⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.
- ⇒ The Kankakee Deanery Council of Catholic Women Spring Institute will be held at Maternity BVM on Wednesday, June 5, 2025. Registration will begin at 5:00 pm followed by mass and dinner. For more information or to sign up for this event, please contact your CCW President.

A Stewardship Moment

Fifth Sunday of Easter Weekend of May 17/18, 2025

In today's Gospel Jesus makes a bold and clear statement to his disciples. "I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." We are called to love others as a sign of our discipleship in Jesus Christ. That includes even those "others" we might prefer to forget. We are so often tempted to draw lines between those who we will love and those who we consider not worthy of our love. This week take time to reflect on Jesus' love command. How often do we heed Jesus' love command? What change in our lives must take place in order for us to obey this command?



Obscure saint of the week: St. Cristobal Magallanes (May 21) was born to a farm family, and worked as a shepherd in his youth. He entered the seminary at 19, and served as a parish priest at Totatiche, Mexico. He helped found schools, a newspaper, catechism centers for children and adults, carpentry shops, and an electric plant to power the mills. Cristobal worked with the indigenous people to form agrarian cooperatives with the town's people. He was also noted for his devotion to Our Lady.

When the anti-Church government closed all seminaries, Father Cristobal gathered displaced seminarians and started his own seminary; it was quickly suppressed. He formed another, and another, and when they were all closed, the seminarians conducted classes in private homes.

He wrote and preached against armed rebellion but was falsely accused of promoting the *Cristero* guerilla revolt. Arrested on May 21, 1927 while enroute to celebrate Mass at a farm. In prison he gave away his few remaining possessions to his executioners, gave them absolution, and without a trial, he

was martyred with Saint Agustin Caloca.

Other obscure saint of the week: St. Agustin Caloca Cortes (May 21) studied at the seminary in Guadalajara, Mexico until it was closed down by anti-clerical government forces. He resumed his studies in the covert *Auxiliary Seminary of Our Lady of Guadalajara* founded by Saint Cristobal Magallanes. Ordained on [August 5](#), 1923. Prefect of the *Auxiliary Seminary*. He was arrested for his continued religious work and for unfounded suspicion of involvement in the armed *Cristeros* rebellion. He was martyred with Saint Cristobal Magallanes. St. Agustin was one of the *Martyrs of the Cristera War*.



Questions Catholics Ask

What is the Magisterium?

For Roman Catholics the unity of the church is one of its greatest possessions and that includes its teaching authority, or *magisterium*. We don't go it alone as Rambo-style disciples. We are church, all of us together. The great unity prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper reveals his concern that the church remains "one" in spirit and truth.

The institution of the church has many names and plays many roles in the lives of believers. The church is a mother, giving birth to faith through its preaching mission. The church is a servant, continuing the ministry of healing and the restoration of hope that Jesus practiced. And the church is a teacher, bringing the light of truth to every generation in matters of faith and morals.

Because the church's precious unity depends on our profession of a common creed and a common understanding of the faith, Catholics rely on teachers to protect the coherence and integrity of the gospel message. Each bishop exercises the teaching authority in his diocese. He doesn't act independently but in concert with the bishops of his nation or region, as our bishops do with the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) (USCCB).

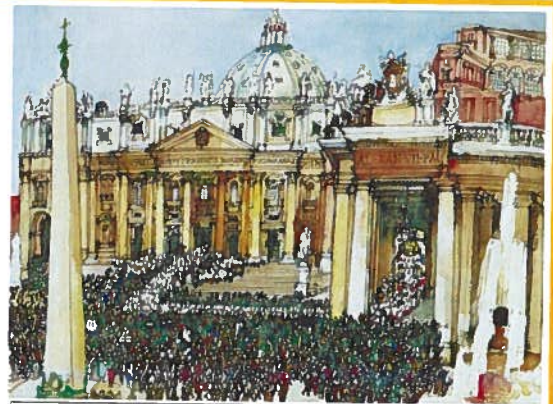
In turn, each bishops' conference exercises its teaching role in keeping with the *magisterium* (teaching office) of the *episcopal college*—all bishops together throughout the world who meet in periodic synods to discuss contemporary concerns. The pope is the head of the episcopal college and can exercise the supreme teaching authority of the whole college.

In these ways the magisterium ensures that careful theological reflection, and not only reaction, remains at the root of the church's message.

—By Alice Camille

Scripture

John 17:20-26; Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2



Vatican assembly of church leaders (Wiki commons; painting by Franklin McMahon)

Meet our new pope.



Pray for Pope Leo XIV, the first pope from the United States

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." - Matthew 16:18

"Habemus Papam!"

What a wonderful moment to be Catholic. Following the tradition of visiting the Room of Tears and the Papal dressing, our newly elected pope was announced on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica...Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost: Pope Leo XIV.

The new Pope delivered his first apostolic blessing, *Urbi et Orbi*, to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square and those watching globally.

⇒ Some background on Pope Leo XI

Pope Leo XIV, formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was born on September 14, 1955, in Chicago to a family of Italian, French, and Spanish heritage. Prevost's early life was marked by a deep commitment to faith and service. He joined the Order of St. Augustine in 1977, professing solemn vows in 1981. His academic pursuits led him to earn a degree in mathematics from Villanova University, a Master of Divinity from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and both licentiate and doctoral degrees in canon law from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

In 1985, Prevost embarked on a missionary journey to Peru, serving in Chulucanas and later in Trujillo. His roles included parish vicar, seminary rector, and canon law professor, reflecting a blend of pastoral care and scholarly engagement. His leadership qualities were recognized globally when he was elected Prior General of the Augustinian Order in 2001, a position he held until 2013.

Pope Francis appointed him as the bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, in 2014, and later brought him to Rome in 2023 to serve as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, overseeing the selection of bishops worldwide. His elevation to cardinal in September 2023 further solidified his standing within the Church hierarchy.

⇒ Pope Leo XIV's focus on the Eucharist

Pope Leo XIV is known for his humility and approachability. But most importantly, Pope Leo XIV is known for his Eucharistic devotion, a trait that has marked both his pastoral ministry and his theological emphasis. His years as a missionary, seminary rector, and bishop were shaped by a reverence for the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

In a time when the world is often distracted by noise and novelty, his example in this way draws us back to the very heart of our Catholic faith: the Eucharist. The Church does not simply *believe* in the Eucharist — she *lives* from it. As Pope Leo XIV steps into the Chair of Peter, we are all reminded that the source and summit of our faith is not a program or policy, but a Person — Jesus Christ, truly present in the Holy Eucharist.

⇒ The name of Leo

The name "Leo" signifies the strong leadership and doctrinal clarity of the other Pope Leos who have gone before him. Pope Leo the Great famously defeated Attila the Hun and St. Leo is one of the four great Western fathers of the Church. The name means "Lion" which of course spiritually refers to strength of faith.

Leo XIII was the first pope to be filmed and truly embraced technology, and perhaps this is one of the aspects that Pope Leo XIV will also embrace. Apparently, he is also an avid tennis player and those who knew him in Chicago warmly called him Fr. Bob.

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May crowning at Sacred Heart—Saoirse O'Connor, Kameron O'Connor, Keaton O'Connor, Josephine Parsons, Viola Parsons, and Lily O'Connor.

Reflection The Personal Touch
Mamie Adams always went to a branch post office in her town because the postal employees there were friendly. One day she went there to buy stamps, and the lines were particularly long.

Someone pointed out that there was no need to wait in line there was a stamp machine in the lobby. "I know," said Mamie, "but the machine won't ask me about my arthritis."

GOD
is LOVE

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I give you a new commandment:
Love one another
JN.13:34

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

When Judas had left, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is seen for who he is, and God seen for who he is in him. The moment God is seen in him, God's glory will be on display. In glorifying him, he himself is glorified—glory all around!

"Children, I am with you for only a short time longer. Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other" (from John 13).

Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal Diocese of Joliet

Current Status for 2025 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
Sacred Heart	\$6,600	\$7,350	\$4,775
St. James	\$9,700	\$6,280	\$6,093
St. MM	\$8,900	\$6,000	\$5,300

NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage



St. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC PARISH

Sunday, May 18, 2025

6:30 p.m. Arrival of the Pilgrims with the Blessed Sacrament

6:30 p.m. Eucharistic Procession from the Settles Center to the Church

6:45 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Adoration with Evening Prayer and Benediction

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Monday, 7:00 a.m. Adoration

Monday, May 19, 2025

7:00 a.m. Benediction

7:30 a.m. Mass

956 S. 10th. Ave. Kankakee IL. 60901 | 815.933.7683 | jp2kankakee.org

May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Acts 14:21-27 | Rev 21:1-5a | Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today's Gospel occurs shortly before Jesus gives his Last Supper Discourses in the Gospel of John. Judas has betrayed Jesus, and now the Lord speaks to his inner circle for one of the last times before his arrest. "I will be with you only a little while longer," he says. At these words, I imagine a hush falling over the group. Rattled by Judas' strange actions and alarmed by the Lord announcing his impending departure, the disciples' eyes must have darted about as they held their breath, awaiting Jesus' words. "I give you a new commandment," he says. "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." In a word, Jesus summarizes his teaching: love as God loves. He is using these last moments to exhort his disciples to be as he is. We know it won't be easy – it will involve sacrifice and suffering – but the Holy Spirit is present with us to guide and advocate for us on our journey.

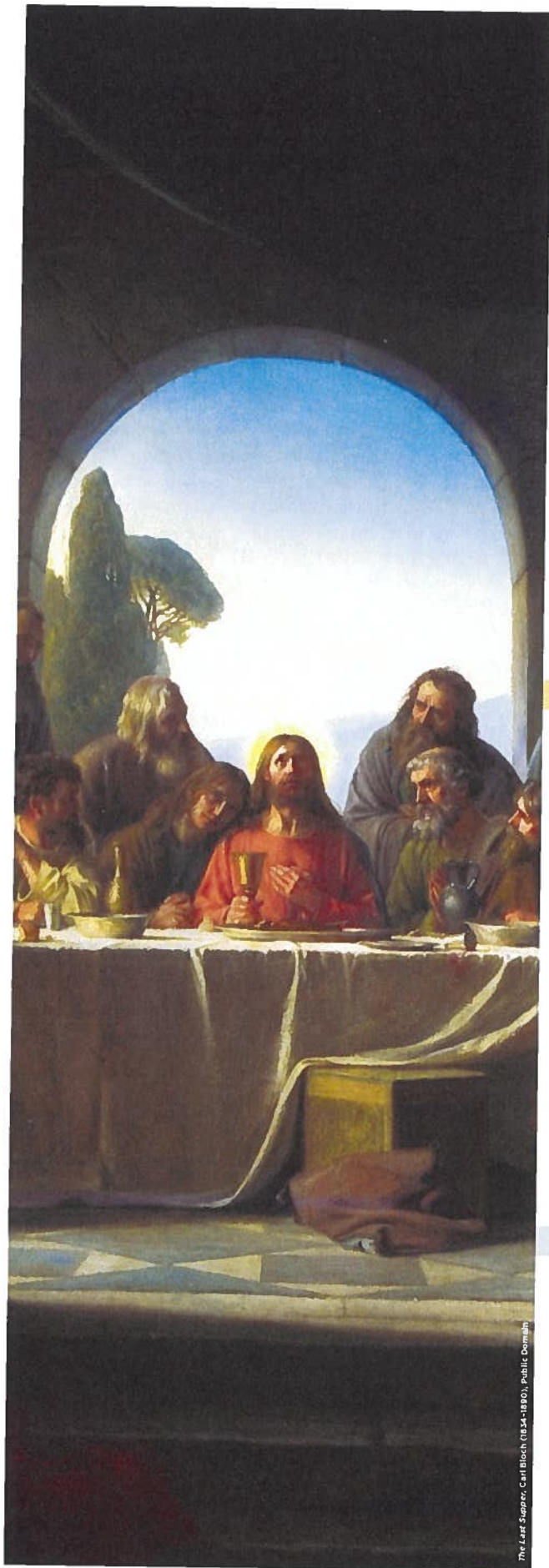
GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Have you ever experienced a season of suffering and wondered, "Have I done something wrong?" When we meet resistance on the narrow path, it can make us question our choices, ourselves, and sometimes even God. Let today's first reading be a boost of confidence on your journey; remember that your suffering does not imply a misstep. "It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," Paul and Barnabas exhort the disciples (and us). It is natural to grow fatigued, especially when we encounter hardships. This is one reason why the Lord desires that we never journey alone. By God's perfect design, humans require companionship, from other humans and from the Creator himself. In the reading from the Book of Revelation, John the Apostle hears a loud voice saying, "God himself will always be with them as their God." Though the road may be peppered with pain, and the trials overwhelming, may we never forget that our God is very near!

PRAY

Today's readings reveal themes of perseverance in faith, radical love, and the stunning reality that the Lord is *truly present* to us. As we pray with these Scriptures, consider asking yourself: *What areas of my life feel distant from the Lord's presence? How can I open these areas up to receive his light and his love?* Take time to talk to the Lord in prayer about these things. When you do, make sure you leave space and silence for him to speak.



The Last Supper, Carl Bloch (1834-1890), Public Domain

SPIRITUALITY

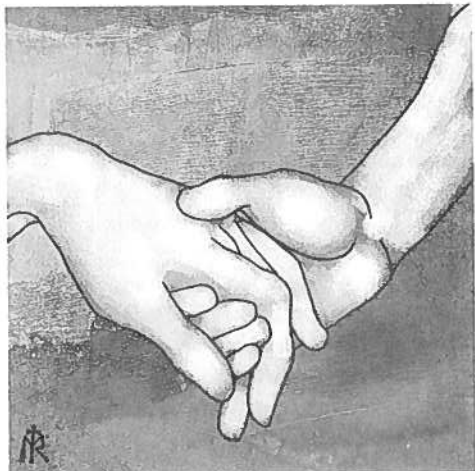
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 13:34

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
love one another as I have loved you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



Gospel

John 13:31-33a, 34-35; L54C

When Judas had left them, Jesus said,

“Now is the Son of Man glorified,
and God is glorified in him.

If God is glorified in him,

God will also glorify him in himself,
and God will glorify him at once.

My children, I will be with you only a
little while longer.

I give you a new commandment: love
one another.

As I have loved you, so you also should
love one another.

This is how all will know that you are
my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”

Reflecting on the Gospel

Two neighbors had a nasty falling-out years ago. One of them has tried repeatedly to mend the breach. Each effort is rebuffed or ignored, and yet the persistent neighbor tries again and again. In many ways these efforts exemplify the kind of love about which Jesus speaks in today's gospel.

Jesus's command to love one another is part of his explanation to the disciples of his washing their feet. He has modeled for them actions that bespeak love—a love that will even go so far as to surrender life itself for the other. It is a love that is extended even to those who will not reciprocate it. Jesus washed the feet of all the disciples—even Judas, who was about to hand him over to his opponents, and Peter, who was about to deny he ever knew Jesus.

Throughout the gospel we see that Jesus never gives up on those who oppose him or who do not understand him. He continues to offer them opportunities right to the end. His love could even reach the Roman procurator, Pilate, with whom he engages in lengthy conversation, as he had done with Nicodemus, a Samaritan woman, a man born blind, Martha, and Mary. In those instances, there was an openness that eventually resulted in faith. Even though Pilate would ultimately reject Jesus's love, Jesus nonetheless offers it.

Jesus not only gives the disciples the gift of his love; he also commands them to do as he has done. He has shown what love is by acting it out—pouring out himself in service, even to calamity's depths. When we see Jesus's love in action, it becomes evident how love can be commanded.

In biblical parlance, love does not consist in warm, fuzzy feelings toward another but in visible acts that bespeak a shared divine parentage and common commitment to one another. To love as Jesus loves, it's not necessary to like or even feel kindly toward the other person. But it is necessary to act toward the other in the way Jesus treated his disciples as he washed their feet. Sometimes loving feelings result from loving action extended and received.

The new creation of which the author of Revelation speaks is not something magical that appears out of the sky. Rather, it begins here and now with each act that aims to fulfill Jesus's command to love. The refusal to give up on anyone and the refusal to let another's rejection extinguish the offer of love are acts that begin the construction of the new dwelling of God, wherein all tears are wiped away and all pain is salved. The old order of tit-for-tat dissolves, as all that is broken is made new.

This “new Jerusalem” is a place where all can find a home. At the Last Supper, Jesus doesn't envision a closed circle of mutually exchanged love but one that keeps widening outward. Just as Paul and Barnabas energetically traversed Asia Minor, offering the good news even to Gentiles, so the commandment to love demands that we continue to open our circles, especially to those to whom we are least attracted.