

This morning, I was happy to hear the refreshing news that two political rivals, Republican Lieutenant Governor Spencer Cox and law professor Chris Peterson, a Democrat, appeared together to call for civility among voters. Their ads together were heartwarming and have generated enormous positive response from voters. "We can disagree without hating each other," Cox says in one of the ads, in which he stands next to Peterson. On the other hand, "We can debate issues without degrading each other's character," Peterson said. What an admirable example!

Each candidate's remark was a step in applying the message of this Sunday's Gospel. When asked by the Scribes and Pharisees "Teacher, which one is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus answered the question, saying: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Respecting the other person's point of view and accepting the other's character are selfless acts which the commandment of love requires.

Jesus showed us what true love is when He died on the cross for us. True love involves much sacrifice. And everybody knows it is not that easy. I have the greatest admiration for parents especially those with special needs children, for teachers, for first responders, for nurses (special mention to Jo), for healthcare professionals especially those caring for Covid-19 patients and family members caring for elderly members or loved ones with debilitating ailments. I know the many sacrifices you make for your loved ones. I took care of my mother-in-law who had Parkinson's disease for 16 years. But Jesus is with us! So, let us do it because that is what is needed these days.

I do know several of you are very concerned for the least of our brothers and sisters especially those affected by the pandemic. In the spirit of the first reading from Exodus, you have consistently contributed to *Between the Cracks Fund*. Thank you for your selflessness. In addition, kudos to the Fund Manager who has patiently processed a lot of shut off and eviction notices these past months. This is true love!