



## *Reflection from Bro. Louis Rodemann*

Last Sunday in St Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians, he shows how all of a person's body parts make one whole functioning human person, so all individual Christians, believing and acting together, make one whole Body of Christ.

This Sunday's reading follows immediately after, explaining how the only way this can happen is if Christians act out of love.

St. Paul gives a whole litany of what love is and is not. Love is described and defined in many ways. The most challenging I've found is of Dorothy Day's quoting Dostoyevsky's character, Father Zosima, in his novel, *Brothers Karamasov*: "Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared to love in dreams."

Love is best understood as a verb, done deliberately and intentionally, involving our whole person, and it's often not easy nor simple.

A few personal situations we might try on:

If our focus and energy is on anti-poverty, anti-death penalty, anti-war and violence, we can love another person whose focus and energy is on anti-abortion, or vice-versa.

If we have an opinion or belief contrary to another's opinion or belief, we can love that person by listening intently and responding civilly.

If we are in an unresolved conflict with another person, we can love that person by initiating or agreeing to elicit a mediator to help with conflict resolution.

As a parish family, St. James expresses our love for many people in multiple ways; a few examples, among others, through which we can participate or contribute are:

We can love the persons needing a pair of gloves from "Bus Stop Ministry" at the corner of 39<sup>th</sup> and Troost.

We can love the mother of a family of four who needs "Between the Cracks" assistance to get her electricity turned back on.

We can love the homeless person get a hot meal at "One City Café".

We can love the person who comes to "Thrift 39" to get a change of good clothes before going to a job interview.

We can love a child in Togo, West Africa, when we provide a tuition scholarship.

We can love migrants by helping them get their green card.

We can love a family in Anapra, Mexico, with a donation to provide a winter's supply of heating oil.

God is love! God's stance toward us, everyone, at all times, is love; our love for others is a sharing in God's love.

*~ Peace,*

*Bro. Louis*