

August 20, 2023



GOD'S GIFTS

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Second Reading

"The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable."

ROMANS 11:29

Reflection

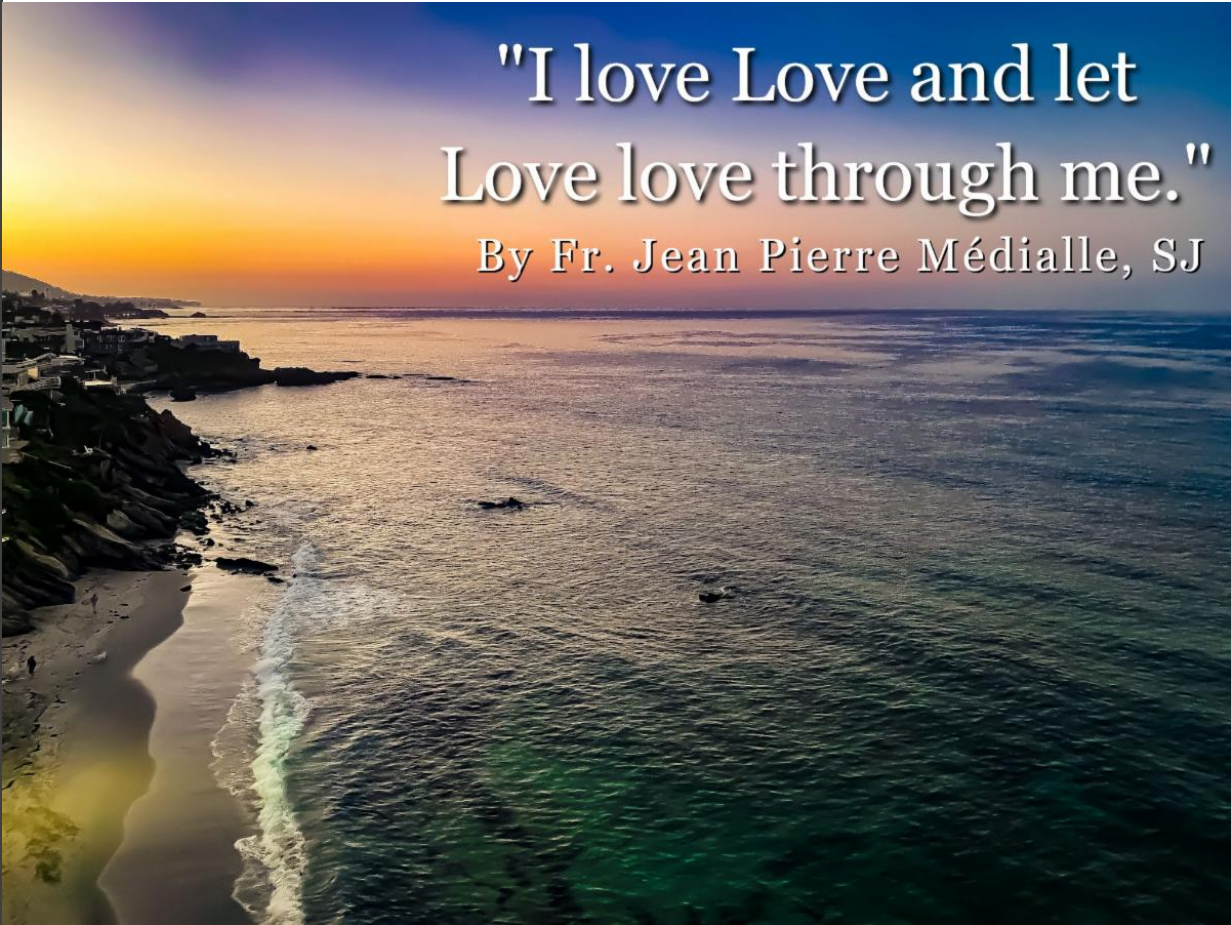
It is Sunday! A day of sabbath rest and renewal in God's great love for us. The three readings today remind me that in human thinking, divisions seem unavoidable. When encountering the unfamiliar or unknown, people tend to see the other as stranger, foreigner, Gentile, Jew, Christian, Muslim, etc. We are wary of the unknown other. Throughout Scripture, this wariness is evident.

In contrast, God sees us all as Beloved and desires to awaken us to Divine presence within our very being. Our God of Love created us, holds us, and

seeks to be known. We are made for love - God's love. Each person born bears a unique reflection of God within their being. We are One in God.

God's abiding in the center of our souls is revealed in our longing for something more, our search for love and belonging, our need for security. Awakening to the reality of God's personal call to union and our countless God-given gifts, we have what we need. It is not about our worthiness; rather it is about God's great love, which sees each of us as beloved.

No matter one's life story, experiences of life, or wanderings off the path of goodness, God always abides, no matter what. God's desire to be one with each of us never lessens. The gift of God's love and abiding presence is unconditional. God patiently waits to heal, forgive, bless us with mercy and compassion. The more we center ourselves in God, and trust God's love, the more we are free to be who God created us to be – a reflection of that great love.



"I love Love and let
Love love through me."

By Fr. Jean Pierre Médialle, SJ

Sunrise in Laguna Beach, CA
Photo by Alicia Rodriguez

For Pondering

- How does God see and know me?

- What is my experience of belonging to God?

For Prayer

Loving and Gracious God, thank You for loving me so well and calling me to be Your own. I rejoice that You are my constant companion through life. Help me rely on You and trust the unconditional love You have for me. When I fail or stray from Your love, call me home; show me the way to live in You with hope. Help me see Your abiding presence in others, especially those I find more difficult to know, love, or trust. May I know myself and all others as held in Your great love that dwells in the deepest sacred space within my soul. May I love as You love. Amen.

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