

Covenant Life

- Our in-person Community Gatherings are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 4pm in the MSMCS gym. Our next prayer meeting will be two weeks from today on Sunday November 14th. At this gathering we will celebrate Veterans Day and will honor Community family members who are veterans or currently serve our country. Please send updates to Sue Wagner at s.wagner@msmcatholic.org
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting you can listen to the audio [here](#), the Word Gift summary [here](#) and the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Reflection - If you have spent time with my letters, I suspect you may have noticed a recurring theme of calling us back to our Covenant. As covenant communities go, we are already significantly geographically challenged being spread out across the DFW metroplex. Covid has only made this challenge even more pronounced. Our zoom-based Area meetings have helped us stay connected but not having our weekly prayer meeting and having to pause so many of our ongoing Community activities has taken a toll on our covenant life.

It is with this in mind that many of my Sunday letters have called to mind our covenant and the need for us to redouble our efforts to really live it out. Today, because of the Gospel, will continue this plea.

For some reason I have always been drawn to the direct challenges of Jesus. Hearing His responses to the Sadducees, Pharisees, Herodians, and Scribes always caught my attention. Maybe I identify with the confrontations of the world, but my heart is always quickened by Jesus' words. Here, in today's Gospel ([Mk 12:28b-34](#)) Jesus is asked about the greatest commandment and turns the table on the scribe by quoting from the first reading ([Dt 6:2-6](#)) and completing the summary of the ten commandments, as we know, by asking us to also give ourselves in love to one another.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength and You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Total surrender to God in love and a total giving of ourselves to our neighbors in love...this is not only the perfect summary of God's command to us but, for me, a perfect summary of our covenant. When we each stood up and made that pledge, we proclaimed that we wanted to give our whole lives to God and live as covenant sisters and brothers. This is the same two-part answer that Jesus gave. Each of us surrendered to God and gave our whole lives to Him and in the same breath gave our whole lives to one another. This was a pledge to be His Delight and let our love for one another witness what His love operating within us looks like.

My request today is the same as last week. That we take time this week to examine our response to God's invitation to covenant and take one new step in His direction. You can start this journey by clicking this link on our: [covenant life page](#). What step is God asking you to take today?

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, You invited me into a covenant with You and I said Yes. My response was not a temporary yes but a life-long yes. I make it again today. I say Yes to loving You with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength! I also say Yes to my covenant to my sisters and brothers...to loving them as myself. Show me today one new way that I can renew my covenant with You. Show me one new way that I can renew my covenant with my sisters, brothers, family, and those You bring into my life. I love You and give myself totally to You and totally to them. Amen."

God bless,

David