



HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church

15 THAYER STREET

SOUTH DEERFIELD, MA 01373

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TODAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

SOLEMNITY - BROTHERLY LOVE

9:00 am – Holy Mass to be celebrated in the
Traditional Rite of the PNCC.

Mass Intention: Remembering all those who lost
their lives in the 9/11/01 attacks 25 years ago.

OPENING HYMN

“To Thee, We Come, O Lord, Our God”

To Thee we come, O Lord, our God,

Before Thine altar, Father

Thou knowest best our yearning hearts.

This supplication answer.

Lift up from want Thy people, Lord,

Bless us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

Under Thy cross we stand prepared,

To serve Thee with devotion,

Be it with sweat of blood or tears, Or

humble resignation.

For we Thy people are, O Lord,

Save us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(1 John 4:7, 9)

V. Beloved, let us love one another, because love
is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by
God and knows God.

R. In this way the love of God was revealed to us,
God sent His only Son into the world, so that
we might have life through Him.

C. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit,

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be, world without end. Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the Highest,
and peace to His people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

Almighty God, and Father

We worship You; we give You thanks

We praise you for Your glory

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father

Lord God, Lamb of God

You take away the sins of the world

Have mercy on us

You are seated at the right hand of the Father,

Receive our prayer

For you alone are the Holy One

You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ

With the Holy Spirit

In the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

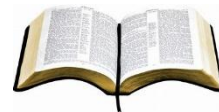
OPENING PRAYER

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray. Almighty Father, through Jesus
Christ, You revealed that the greatest law is love
of You and our neighbors. Inflame our hearts
with the fire of Your holy love and so strengthen
our love for one another. We ask this through
our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH
THE PROPHET (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I
will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which

I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

C. The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

(Luke 17:3-4)

V. If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

R: And if he wrongs you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times saying, "I am sorry," you should forgive him

A READING FROM THE 1ST LETTER OF JOHN, THE BELOVED APOSTLE

(1 John 4:17-21)

Brothers and Sisters: In this, love is perfected in us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is so, are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he, who fears is not perfected in love. We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this is a commandment that we have from him, that he who loves God should love his brother also.

C. The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

(John 15:17)

C. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. This I command you: love one another.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE

(Luke 10:25-37)

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance, a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" The doctor of the law said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

C. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



THE NICENE CREED

I believe in One God,
the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth
of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made
Of one being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made
For us and for our salvation.
He came down from heaven:
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He was born of the Virgin Mary
AND BECAME MAN.

For our sake, He was crucified
under Pontius Pilate
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again
in fulfillment of the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.

He will come again in glory
To judge the living and the dead
and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Lord and Giver of Life
Who proceeds from the Father,
With the Father and the Son
He is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in One, Holy, Catholic
and Apostolic Church
I acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
I look for the resurrection of the dead
And the life of the world to come.
Amen.



OFFERTORY VERSE

(1 John 4:10-11)

V. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but
that He loved us and sent His Son as expiation
for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we
also must love one another.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All-loving Father, Your Son taught us to love You
and our brothers and sisters. May this offering serve
to bring us closer to You and to one another. We ask
this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for
ever and ever.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us Pray: Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the
Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly
present. I love You above all things and I long for
You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You
sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my
heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite
myself with You; may I never be separated from You.
Inflame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord
and Savior. Amen.

COMMUNION VERSE

(John 13:35)

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray. Almighty and Merciful Father, may
this Eucharist which is a pledge and sign of Your
love for us, help us to draw closer to You and to
one another. Help us to forgive the faults of our
brother and sisters as You have promised to
forgive us. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus
Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.



Bishop Franciszek Hodur

THE SOLEMNITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE

On the Love of One's Neighbor First

This sermon was delivered by Prime Bishop
Francis Hodur, on September 9, 1921

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Matthew 22:39

It would seem that there is no easier commandment than the Commandment to love God and one's neighbor, but in reality, a person commits the most sins against these two requirements of God. What is the cause of this?

One of the causes is that a human being is still a little-spiritualized being. He is willful, materialistic. He cares about material things and goals; and a materialistic person does not sense His presence.

And why do people not love a person with brotherly love? There are several causes. Sometimes we meet unpleasant people who are disgusting because of their of their superficiality and habits, who are carousers, thieves, drunkards, cynics, troublemakers, gossips or scolds. Human nature recoils from such neighbors. A person feels a disgust which he cannot overcome.

Others, again, we cannot love because they are better than we. We feel reluctant because they are honest, just, pious and sober.

About the year 490 before Christ, in Athens there was a very wise and noble person named Aristides. He had political enemies who decided to throw him out of his office and from the city. Aristides met a citizen who did not know how to write and who asked him to write on a table his name. Because he was honest and just, he went into exile.

And so today it often happens that we conduct ourselves in our love, not from noble, uplifting or pious motives but often from caprice and selfishness. We love people because they are pleasant, kind, live

well with us, or who look at our faults through their fingers.

Children love the kind of parents who do not punish severely errors and misdeeds, and who tolerate outbursts.

But it should be otherwise, the opposite. We should love people because that is God's Commandment. God loves all people. That He sometimes punished a person with trials, illness or death does not mean that he does not love him but He smites him to gain him. He is like one's father or mother.

What is the surest medicine for this human misery, for errors, sins, disagreement, hellish hatred, for offenses, and the weeping of unhappy humanity?

It is necessary to fulfill these two great commandments of God. The first Christians should be a model for us. We must always have in our mind and heart these words of Christ the Lord: “As you did it unto... even these least, you did it unto Me.” [Matthew 25:40]



REMEMBERING 9/11

25 years later

This past Friday, our nation marked the 25th Anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. It has been said that people remember where they were, for certain key events in history; the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and as we remember on this day, 9/11, the tragedies which took place in 2001.

On this day, we remember, in prayer, the 2996 from 77 different countries who died. They were the “innocents,” those who lost their lives between the attacks at the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, in NYC; the Pentagon in Washington, DC as well as those who died in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Did you know that the average age of those who died were only 40 years of age. The youngest victim on that day was a two-and-a-half-year-old child on

Flight 175 and the oldest was an 85-year-old passenger on Flight 11. Not only do we pray for the repose of these souls, but we also remember today the other 25,000 people plus, who were injured because of these terrorist attacks, and especially for their families. May we also remember today all those workers who have died since then, excavating and removing not only of what was left of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, but also removed the fragments, of all those who died on this day.

Following the attacks, President George W. Bush sent troops over to Afghanistan to track down Osama bin Laden, the main “architect” who remained at large until May 2, 2011, where he was killed by special forces of the United States under the Presidency of Barack Obama.

After the death of Bin Laden, our former President, Barack Obama, announced that he would begin withdrawing troops from the country, which was finally completed by President Joseph Biden in August 2021, making it the longest American war in American history, lasting over 20 years.

According to the data from Linda Bilmes of Harvard University’s Kennedy School and the Brown University Cost of War project, as reported by the Associated Press, it is estimated that 2,448 American service members were killed in Afghanistan. The last casualties of this protracted war were 13 members of the U.S. armed forces who lost their lives in a suicide bombing at the Kabul Airport on August 26, 2011, while they were offering humanitarian assistance to those wishing to leave Afghanistan before the takeover of the Taliban.

While only three planes that crashed into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, there was a fourth plane that was hijacked by the terrorists. United Airlines Flight 93 was a domestic flight scheduled to fly from New Jersey to San Francisco and was hijacked shortly after take-off. Following the actions of the 40 civilians on board Flight 93, they were able to storm the cockpit, with the rally cry of “let’s go,” prior to two terrorists, who being secure in the cockpit, caused the tragic crash of flight 93 into a field the in Shanksville PA at over 500 mph. To this day, experts believe that this plane was to target the U.S. Capitol building or even the White House.

As we mark the 25th Anniversary, we also pray for over 9,000 individuals, who since have died, due to complications of the toxic dust that lingered at the site of the Twin Towers during their cleanup May we remember all those who lost their lives on this tragic day and the aftermath. May we never forget..



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

I have read that in the 4th century AD, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ’s life. I also read that she razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition holds, was built over the Savior’s tomb, and that her son, Constantine the Great, who in turn, built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the 4th century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above the Head of Jesus. Then “all the people passed through one by one; all of them bowing down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they moved on.”

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September 14th, the anniversary of the basilica’s dedication.

The Solemnity or for some a feast day. entered the Western calendar in the 7th century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614 A.D., 15 years earlier.

According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

SOLEMNITY – HOLY MOTHER OF SORROWS

Sources: Etwn Global Catholic Network the Catholic Voice and Wikipedia.com

Mary, Mother of Sorrows, also known as Our Lady of Sorrows or Mater Dolorosa in Latin, is honored in the Catholic tradition for her profound suffering and compassion as she witnessed the Passion and death of her Son, Jesus Christ.

Overview

Mary, the Mother of Sorrows, is a title that emphasizes the deep grief and compassion of the Virgin Mary throughout her life, particularly during the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. She is often depicted in art with seven swords piercing her heart, symbolizing the Seven Sorrows she endured, reflecting her intimate union with Christ's suffering and her role as a model of redemptive suffering and maternal compassion.

The Seven Sorrows of Mary

The **Seven Sorrows** are key events in Mary's life that caused her profound sorrow:

1. **The Prophecy of Simeon** – Simeon foretold that a sword would pierce Mary's soul (Luke 2:34–35)
2. **The Flight into Egypt** – Mary and Joseph fled to protect Jesus from King Herod (Matthew 2:13–21)
3. **The Loss of the Child Jesus for Three Days** – Jesus was missing in Jerusalem, causing Mary great anxiety. (Luke 2:41–50),

4. **Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary** – She witnesses her Son carrying the cross.
5. **The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus** – Mary stands at the foot of the cross, sharing in His suffering.
6. **The Body of Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross** – Mary receives her Son's lifeless body.
7. **The Burial of Jesus** – Mary mourns as Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Spiritual Significance

Mary's sorrows exemplify **unwavering faith, compassion, and maternal love**. Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows encourages the faithful to unite their own sufferings with Christ's Passion, finding consolation and spiritual growth. Saints have emphasized her role as a source of comfort and guidance in times of grief, teaching that her heart understands human suffering and intercedes for those in distress.

Historical Context

The devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows developed around the 11th century and was formalized by the Servite Order in the 13th century, who adopted the sorrows of Mary as the principal focus of their spiritual life.

Traditional Prayer to Mary, Mother of Sorrows

O most holy and afflicted Virgin, Queen of Martyrs, you stood beneath the cross, witnessing the agony of your dying Son. Look with a mother's tenderness and pity on me, who kneel before you. I venerate your sorrows and place my requests with filial confidence in the sanctuary of your wounded heart. Present them, I beseech you, on my behalf to Jesus Christ, through the merits of His own most sacred Passion and Death, together with your sufferings at the foot of the cross; and through the united efficacy of both, obtain the grant of my present petition. O Sorrowful Mother, pray for us and help us to bear our crosses with patience and love. Unite our sufferings with yours and help us to grow closer to your Son, Jesus. Amen.



PARISH CALENDAR AND NEWS

DAILY MASS at 9:00 am

8:45 am - Morning Devotions

9:00 am - Holy Mass of the Eucharist]

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

(September 14th - September 19th)

Mon.	9/14	Solemnity Exaltation of the Cross
Tues.	9/15	Solemnity – Mary, Mother of Sorrow
Wed.	9/16	Mass of Health and Healing
Thurs.	9/17	Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus
Fri.	9/18	Mass to the Holy Martyrs of God
Sat.	9/19	Private Prayer and Devotions

NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

25th SUNDAY IN THE ORDINARY

11:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Traditional Rite.

12:00 pm Parish Committee to meet.

Please note: At the August meeting of the Parish Committee, it was decided that we change the time of our Mass in South Deerfield on the **3rd Sunday of every month from 9:00 am to 11:00 am** to allow the Parish Committee to meet following Mass.

LECTORS PROCLAIMING THE “WORD”

9/13 - Solemnity of Brotherly Love -

- Jim Winn

9/20 - 25th Ordinary – Paula Winn

9/27 - 26th Ordinary- Shirley Mietlicki Floyd



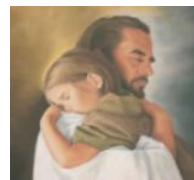
PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

“And He sent them out, to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”

- Luke 2:9

May we pray this day, and every day, for the health and healing of all of us, and most specially for those, who are homebound or in various facilities.

Let us Pray: O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness, stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way are ailing. Deliver them, according to Your will, from all their present sicknesses and illnessness, and grant them recovery in Jesus’ holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You. Amen.



OUR PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAMS

“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”

- Philippians 2:4

OUR FOOD MINISTRY

Our next Parish “food giveaway” from will be on Saturday, **September 19th from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm.** We are grateful for all donations given.

We wish to thank Cheryl Major, Sue & Eric Dibrandisi, Mary & Josh Tudryn for all their help as well as all those who have donated groceries.

We ask for help with the following items

- Cereals and instant oatmeal.
- Fruit juices, - V8, Apple and Cranberry juices.
- Powder milk / condensed milk.
- Tea bags.
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce.
- Boxes of Mac-n-cheese.
- Canned tuna in water.
- Canned meats- chicken, salmon,
- Ramen noodles.
- Soups- all varieties.
- Canned veggies and fruits.
- Children’s snack packs.



EASTERN DIOCESAN
MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION

CALL TO PRAYER

In the month of September, the Eastern Diocese of the PNCC. has called upon all its members and friends to offer prayers for the upcoming **XXIV General Synod** at 12:00 noon each Wednesday.

LET US PRAY

Almighty God, grant to all delegates of the Synod a humble spirit. As they seek Your wisdom, lead and guide them in their deliberations. May they be aligned with Your desires and plans for Your Holy Church. Give them vision, courage, and hope for the future as they follow where You lead. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.



XXVII General Synod of the
Polish National Catholic Church

September 28 – 30, 2026
Manchester, NH

As the acting Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus PNCC Parish in South Deerfield, MA, and the Administrator of the Holy Mother of the Rosary PNCC Parish in Chicopee, MA, I will represent both parishes at the upcoming Synod.



HOLY MOTHER OF THE ROSARY
26 BELL STREET
CHICOPEE, MA 01020

TAG SALE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH
&
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
9AM - 4 PM

**CLOTHING, JEWELRY, TOYS, BOOKS,
PUZZLES, CD's, DVD's, KITCHEN AND
DINING PRODUCTS, COLLECTIBLES, etc.**

AND MUCH MORE!

ALSO: LUNCH, BAKED GOODS & SNACKS
(EAT IN OR TAKE OUT)



HOLY NAME OF JESUS PNCC
15 THAYER STREET
SOUTH DEERFIELD, MA

FALL BAZAAR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026
9am – 12pm

PIEROGI Schedule

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

GALABKI (Stuffed Cabbage) Schedule

WEEK OF OCTOBER 26-30

APPLE PIES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

To sign up or for more information, please see Linda Puchalski, chairperson for this event. For information on raffle prizes, please see Sue Dibrindisi.



REFLECTIONS

“But he, wanting to justify himself said unto Jesus, who is my neighbor?” - Luke 10:29

My dear brothers and sister in Christ Jesus:

At the Special Synod of the PNC Church, held in August of 1906. our First Bishop, Franciszek (Francis) Hodur established the Feast of Brotherly Love, which we celebrate today.

We read in today’s Gospel, that a well-educated man, a lawyer, came to Jesus seeking an answer to one of the oldest and most important questions:

“What shall I do to inherit eternal Life?”

Do you know that the question of “eternal life” has existed ever since the “fall of man” from God in the Garden of Eden as we read in the Book of Genesis, and do you know that throughout the history of the Jewish people, as found in the Holy Bible, mankind has struggled to make things right with God and return to his original “Edenic” state with God.

When asked about “eternal life,” Jesus then asks the lawyer as he asks each of us today: How do you understand the law? The lawyer answered rightly by stating that “eternal life” is based upon the love of God first and loving one another as we love ourselves. But the lawyer took this answer one step farther. He wanted to “justify himself”. He didn’t have a problem with the first commandment of loving God first but the second commandment when he asked Jesus: “And who is my neighbor?”

In definition, we find that the word “neighbor” is defined as “one who lives near or next door.” But in today’s world, are we not all neighbors? I think Jesus teaching the Parable of the “Good Samaritan” is so appropriate today, as we remember that 25 years ago, as we mark the tragedy of 9/11, that it was neighbors helping neighbors in their needs.

Do you know that the Samaritans were hated by the orthodox Jews? They were considered “unholy and unclean.” Travelers would purposely go out of their way to avoid traveling through Samaria. And yet Jesus uses these “unholy and unclean” Samaritans to clear up the question of: Who are our neighbors?

Through times of severe weather occurrences, we find neighbors helping neighbors and strangers helping strangers. There exists a commonality of love.

Unfortunately, we also also see the result of anger, hatred and division, where mankind has tried to justify themselves in committing acts of terrorism and crimes against their fellow man.

I believe that all people have at one time or another, tried to justify through their words and actions their dislike or hatred of our neighbors, whether it be in their political views or in religion. How difficult it is to live by the words of Jesus as found in the Gospel of John 13:34, where He teaches: “This is a new commandment that I give unto you: Love one another, as I have loved you.” It seems that it is easier to look for differences before we look at our commonality.

And so, my brothers and sisters: on this the Solemnity of Brotherly Love, may it cause all of us to be a little kinder, a little more understanding, a little more patient, and a little more loving of each other. May we also all be a little less critical, a little less judgmental and a little less fault-finding. How can anyone of us be justified before God without first considering the commonality that God exists in all of us and what John wrote in his first Epistle: “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

May we all take the story of the Good Samaritan to heart, when it comes to and helping one another through the love that Christ shown to us. May we also realize that it is in our unswerving faith and trust in Christ Jesus and his teachings, that we are justified to inherit “eternal life,” through love that He first offered to us through His death and Resurrection. Amen.