

**Centrality of Love**      Twenty-four Week in Ordinary Time      Wednesday, September 19, 2018      **1 Cor 12:31—13:13;**      Lk 7:31-35      (St. Januarius, bishop and Martyr)      St. Maurice Church, Zermatt, Switzerland      (An actual description of a new life that God is creating within us centered on this gift of love)

The first reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, and I believe it is **the most important letter of all of St. Paul's writings**, although Martin Luther thought Romans was much more important. But in this particular section he is trying to—first of all, I would have to say that many people misinterpret this letter, especially this section on love. Some people take it to be simply poetry. Well, it is poetic, but it isn't simply poetry. What he intended it to be is **an actual description of a new life that God is creating within us centered on this gift of love**. It is one thing all Christian writings have in common. There are many controversies, but one thing they all agree on, and that is **the centrality of love in life**.

Now it's obvious that **for most of us love is not central**, actually, a kind of love, yes, but **it isn't quite as full as the love Paul is describing, quite as selfless, quite as transcending**.

Now the key to what he is getting at is when he said, "When I was a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child, but as an adult I put those things away." **He is implying that now we should put away the things of our adulthood: our reasoning, our rationalizations, our way of going along with the consensus, and move to another level**. That's what he is trying to get people to do. He is trying to encourage people to think in yet a third level of life, which would be, actually, living as he tried to live, **which is a life of a saint**. We are all called to sanctity; we are called to holiness. That's what it is; it's **a life centered on love**. It's a life in which the self is always transcending its own categories, its own little houses, its own places of comfort. And **it's a life of God, but it's very possible as we see in the saints**. They struggled, but they succeeded, and we all can because **it is the Holy Spirit that is really doing the work**. We are simply letting the Spirit move us.