48A Homily for the Thirtieth Sunday of the Ordinary Time Year A

* “When someone steals another's clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the one who has no shoes; the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor.” St. Basil the Great
* Love of God and neighbour commanded? Why? Because it doesn’t happen voluntarily or spontaneously? It doesn’t arise in us naturally. Our focus of love is our own selves. What is the human inclination of man is to look into himself and to immediately fulfil his needs and then to think of other? This tendency is very prevalent in our days. Millennials (born 1980 to year 200) A Business insider article reported this year that “millennials are (stereotyped) as in famously narcissistic, entitled, lazy and arrogant.”
* Cross is a completely expression of love of God and humanity, a complete fulfilment of the commandment of love of God and neighbour. How? Because it embodies a perfect self-giving sacrifice. It is on the cross Christ proved to us that God doesn’t expect anything from us when he loves us and he has loved us first. He proved that love when he sent his only to die for us when we are still sinners.
* It is a commandment because it needs for the flouring of the society. What happens when we allow all the time love of self to govern our society? Let’s take a simple example. There will be chaos on the road when no one gives heed to road rules and wants to get home first. It is a simple example but when you look at history and think of societies in the past , they all flourished and advanced because they forgot about themselves and gave prominence to God and cared about the their neighbour.
* Let me present to you two great personalities through whom Christian vision of the love of God and neighbour allowed for the flouring of the society.
* St Basil: Bishop from Caesarea in Cappadocia modern day Turkey. He felt love of God should be an effective expression reaching out to the margins of the society. He built a city called Basiliade, which was also known as the city of mercy. It is in this city the modern hospital structure was born where the sick people are admitted to treatment.
* John Chrysostom: Lived in the New Rome, Constantinople. He changed the Greek idea of the city ‘polis’ influenced by the Gospel which of the city which upheld the primacy of the individual. Traditional Greek vision of the city large sectors of the people had no access to rights of the citizenship while he stressed in the Christian city everyone created into the likeness and image of God are all brothers and sisters with equal rights. In Greek city the individual has to subordinated to the city as a whole, individual is just another number but the Christian is inspired by the love of Christ sees his image in very person. “If you can’t find Christ in the beggar at the Church door, you will not find him in the chalice. When we teach our children to be good, to be gentle, to be forgiving; to be generous, to love their fellow men, to regard this present age as nothing, we instil virtues in their souls and reveal the image of God within them.”
* People on the margins who needs that love: Strangers (refugees and asylum seekers), widows and orphans. Who live on the margins today in whom that I need to see the image of God?