

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

SEPTEMBER 2026

The past two Sundays we have looked at Matthew 16 when Peter expresses what the disciples have concluded about Jesus, that He is the fulfillment of the hopes of Israel for a Messiah. This is a deduction that God desires every human being to come to in deciding about the person God sent in history who came from Nazareth somewhere around the year 30 CE (common era). Upon concluding as Peter did, a whole new orientation takes place in life. Things are not done from a selfish motive any longer but from the perspective of love which always responds in the manner that does the best for the one being loved regardless of how we may feel toward that person. We are called to love others whether we like them or not and when we do, we are likely to begin to like them as well.

As this journey toward love of God proceeds in my own life, I have been blessed by reading people's writings who had a blessed love for God to which I aspire. I ran across one such writing this morning in my time of meditation. It is from a young woman, Juanita Solar, who lived in Chile and died of typhus at the age of 19. Her growth in faith and love for God accelerated ever since childhood leading her to share her love of God with others as expressed in this letter she wrote before her passing. She wrote:

**How clearly, I sense that he's the only God who can satisfy us, the only ideal who can make us fall completely in love. In him I find everything. I rejoice to the intimate depths of my being to see him so beautiful, to experience that I'm always united with him, for God is immense and present everywhere. Nothing can separate me from him.... At every moment God sustains and nourishes me. Everything I see speaks to me of his infinite power and love.... Finally, I tell you he doesn't change, and that his love for me is infinite – an eternal, incomprehensible love that led him to become man, that made him be transformed into bread in order to be with me, to suffer and console me.**

**If you give yourself to prayer, you'll find that God will show himself to you and make you fall in love with him. In prayer our soul seeks him out, and if we do so, wanting to know and love him, Jesus will raise a bit the veil that conceals him and show us his divine face, radiant with beauty and sweetness. There are times when he will open his Heart's wound and will show us the treasures of his infinite goodness and love....**

**Let's love eternal Love, infinite and immutable Love. Let's love God madly, for he loved us in his eternity. Without needing us, his whole powerful work was done for humanity. He placed everything at our disposal. He continually sustains and nourishes us. And in order not to be separated from us in eternity, he gave us his only begotten Son. God became a creature. He suffered and died for us. God made himself nourishment for his creatures. Have you ever thought deeply about the infinite madness of this love? Believe me, I feel my soul overwhelmed with gratitude and love. My life is spent contemplating that incomprehensible Goodness, and my soul suffers when I see that Love is unknown. I plunge myself deeply into his grandeur, into his wisdom. But when I think about his goodness, my heart is speechless. I adore him.** (From Letters of Saint Teresa of the Andes, Michael D. Griffin, O.C.D., tr. © 2023, ICS Publications, Washington, DC. [www.icspublications.org](http://www.icspublications.org).)

As we begin the youth program again in a few days, may we as a Church help all our youth aspire to a love for God as the above teenager did which will impact their lives and the lives of others as they learn to love God.

With love,

