

### ***Reflecting on Matthew 7:6, 12-14***

Reading Mathew 7:6, 12-14 got me thinking about what love is, and that in order for us to enter through that narrow gate we are going to need to love at a very high level; a level that God calls us all to.

So, what is love?

In today's society, many people think of love and associate it with good feelings or emotions. The word is used loosely, "I love my dog, or, I love ice cream."

Do you want to see what love really looks like? Jesus on the cross. That's true love, the highest level of love. Jesus had a choice, He said yes to His Father's will, and went through His passion and crucifixion because He loves us so much. He did it all for us. He completely forgot about Himself, and only thought about us.

Fr. Von often mentions that the letters F-A-M-I-L-Y in the word family, stand for forget about me, I love you. The process of dying unto ourselves and growing in love involves forgetting about ourselves and becoming giving of ourselves.

God gives us opportunities to grow in love each day, whether it's choosing to be last in line and letting others go before us, forgoing our desire to do something that we'd like to do so that somebody else can do what they want to do, or acting patient, charitable and generous to a person who needs help at the very moment that you're most irritable, tired, hungry, impatient or all of the above.

If we say yes and take advantage of the opportunities that God gives us by putting others before ourselves, we will be rewarded as we grow in love, as we see the positive impact that we have on other people's lives, and as we develop a deeper relationship with God.

Over time, the selfish part of us will die, and we will find true happiness, fulfillment, and joy in helping and serving others.