

If you've ever sat through an evaluation at work you know that they can go a number of different ways.

Sometimes they can be short and sweet --- the kind that simply take a minute or two, and end with, "Nice job. Keep doing what you're doing. Sign here."

Others can be very detailed and take a long time.

These are the kinds in which the supervisor has a list of the job duties right in front of them and they go through them one by one.

Hopefully, the person being evaluated knew in advance what those expectations were, and they don't have any surprises.

But there is another kind of evaluation --- the kind in which things get talked about and the employee is completely in the dark --- things the boss is unhappy about but the employee had no idea were even part of the job.

These situations can be very frustrating --- because the employee thought they were being evaluated on certain things, only to find out that the supervisor was evaluating some other things of which the employee was entirely unaware.

"I didn't even know that was my responsibility," they might say. "I didn't even know that was my responsibility"

What do you think the job description for being a Christian is?

Do you ever think about stuff like that?

I do.

What exactly would that list look like?

Would it be long? Short?

And how about specifically for a Catholic.

Does that add to the list?

Or is it pretty much the same for all Christians?

Put another way --- what are God's expectations of us?

What are we responsible for?

I'll come back to that in a minute.

Do you ever wonder if over the past two thousand years, we --- the Catholic community --- have made things a little too complicated?

Would those first believers, those first followers of Jesus even recognize us as being of the same community as them?

Or would they be a little confused by what they saw and heard and experienced?

I ask those things not for us to unfairly question what the Church has become over the centuries.

That's not my intention at all.

In fact, the way I feel about the Church is quite the opposite.

I love the Liturgy.

I love the Sacraments.

I love Catholic devotions.

the Eucharistic prayers.

I love our celebrations and our beautiful churches and the religious art.

I love it all.

It truly is a treasure for me in my faith and I can't imagine my life without it.

I would not be standing up here today if I felt differently.

But I ask those questions for a different reason.

You see, sometimes I wonder if the richness of the Church, the countless opportunities it provides for us to encounter God, the many chances for us to let God pour his love into us --- doesn't somehow confuse us as to what the **job description of a Catholic truly is.**

Think about this for a minute.

If we were sitting across from God in a job evaluation, what would he say?

What would he be evaluating?

Would it be

How many Masses I have attended? I figured about 4000 so far in my lifetime.

How many prayers I have said? I can't even begin to tally that number.

How many devotions I have participated in? I don't know.

How many parish activities I've gone to? A lot.

How often I read the Bible? Everyday.

Whether or not I followed our Lenten regulations? I really try to....

But are those really the benchmarks?

Are those at the top of the list of what God expects?

Are those the most important things when all is said and done?

Put another way --- are those the only things that provide evidence of faithfulness?

Or would God be evaluating something completely different?

I think you know the answer.

Today we heard in the 2nd reading from John,,, these words

“Whoever is without love does not know God”

Sometimes I think it's easy for us, as Catholics, to forget the obvious when it comes to following Jesus.

It's easy **for us to mistake the job** description for something it is not, or to scramble the order of things to such a degree that we place things at the top of the list things that should be much further down (or in some cases, should not be on the list at all).

I think in a very real sense, **there is really only one item** on the job description, one thing that should be on the top of the list, and if it's not the entire list might need to be thrown out

And we all know well what that one thing is: **love**.

Love is the number thing.

Love is really our **1st** responsibility.

Love is what God wants and expects and demands --- not because HE needs it, but because every single person on this Earth needs it, the whole world needs it, WE need it --- both to give it and receive it.

Everything else I mentioned above --- all those good, holy, meaningful, beautiful and worthy things --- things you and I love dearly, the things we spend our entire lives participating in, all those things,

we should absolutely do,,,,, but do them with love in our hearts.

Because when we have that love in our hearts, we become better lovers and that love comes from one place, from God.

And that true love helps us love unconditionally and completely.

And so, as we give thanks to God for our faith and for our Church --- the very things that provide us with safety and security in this crazy and mixed up world --- let's never forget what true faith is all about.

It's all about love --- because God is love.

We just heard all about the love Jesus had for His friends.

He gave us the example of the ultimate love.

He gave His life for us.

He showed us the ultimate love by being nailed to a cross while asking His father to forgive the very people doing the nailing.

Can we love like that? Can we do it?

The answer I'm afraid,,,, is no ,, **not without Christ in our life**

Jesus gave us a command.

Love one another.

Without the love of Christ in us, what we do is reduced, somewhat empty and without real or lasting meaning.

But when we live with Christ, in Christ, and for love --- we can be assured that God will look upon us and be pleased with what he sees.

And then at our final evaluation, at our last job review when we leave this earth,

We will hear those words we all long to hear from God.

Well done, my good and faithful servant.