



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)

Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48

1 Jn 4:7–10

Jn 15:9–17

## God's Call

**T**he story about Cornelius shows that God's call is not restricted by our likes and dislikes. Cornelius was a Roman, a citizen of the nation that was occupying Israel. More than that, he served in a military that exercised harsh control over the inhabitants of the land. A man like this would not have been loved by the Jews of the day. However, Cornelius recognized Peter as a representative of God, and his fundamental faith opened him to the gift of the Holy Spirit. All those who were listening to Peter's words were then baptized. They were then one with the community of believers.

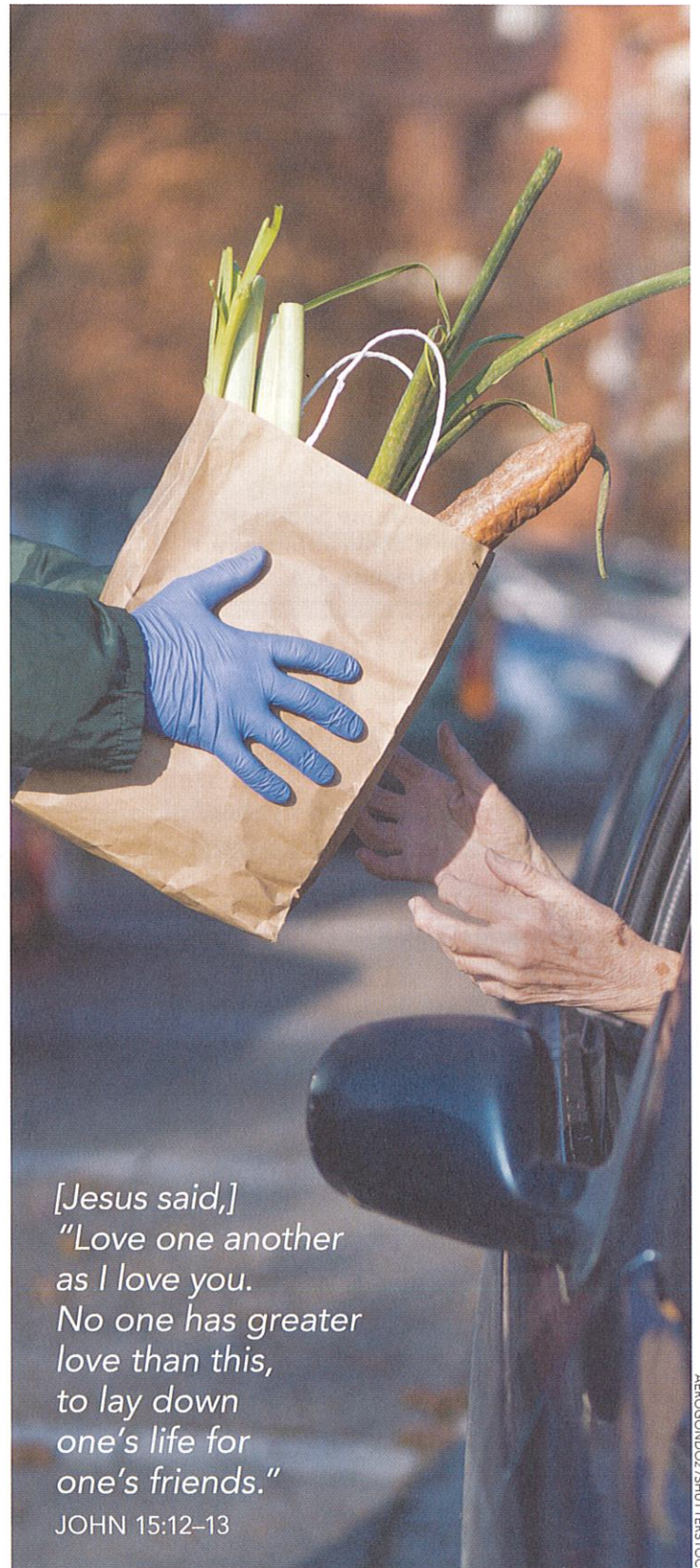
Faith, baptism, and incorporation into the community of believers are offered to Jew and Roman alike. They are offered today to those who are members of our own religious, racial, or ethnic groups and those who are not; those who are socially or politically vulnerable, and those with power. The issue is not who does God favor, but who favors God.

The Gospel story reinforces this point. It insists that God's love for us is the foundation of everything. We are told: "Love one another as I love you" (John 15:12). God's love is all-inclusive. So should our love be all-inclusive. If God's love is for all, it follows that we are all favored by God—all chosen and cared for by him. This includes even those who might be our political adversaries, or who might exercise exacting authority over us, or who cherish different religious ideas. Imitating God's love requires that we will goodness to others—even those with whom we disagree or who have caused us harm.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR Reflection

- ✦ Pray that you might be able to accept the goodness of people with whom you disagree socially, politically, even religiously.
- ✦ You belong to a believing community. Think of how this has strengthened your faith.



*[Jesus said,]  
"Love one another  
as I love you.  
No one has greater  
love than this,  
to lay down  
one's life for  
one's friends."*

JOHN 15:12–13

AEROGONDOZ/SHUTTERSTOCK