

No lover is fooled by words of love that are unsupported by actions.

As the old saying goes: *Love is in the evidence.*

A word of encouragement is nice. Holding your co-worker's hand all afternoon, after her receiving her cervical cancer diagnosis, is better.

Saying "I love you" is good. Staying up all night with your son as he cries his eyes out, trying to make sense of his own sexuality, is better.

Proclaiming the centuries-old creed at Mass, "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ," is noble. Being a generous instrument of compassion for your neighbor whose finances have gone down the tubes, due to the pandemic, is better.

Jesus' voice in this Sunday's gospel is direct and straightforward: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14: 15-21)

For Jesus, knowing and memorizing the commandments isn't good enough. Words alone don't cut it. Lovers of God will be known by their striving to be faithful through their actions.

*Love is in the evidence.*

Prayer and the Sacraments are essential to the life of the church. But they are not the goal or the "end." Prayer and

the Sacraments are meant to transform our hearts and minds so that we might become Christ for one another. That's the point: Becoming Christ-like in this world so that we might be joined to him in the next.

And we certainly can't fool God by merely singing hymns, bending knees and by pious looks.

The One who sees into the human heart knows if our "love" is mere lip service or real passion.

*Love is in the evidence.*

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Let's pray for passionate hearts, that reveal the love of Christ.

*Amen.*