

Commentary on the Gospel for Thu, Sep 13th 2012

The love that Jesus spoke of is able to break the cycle of violence. It introduces a new element that makes everything possible: like the zero in arithmetic. The ancient Romans lacked zero, and so they never developed a mathematics. Try multiplying say, MDCXVI by XIX and you will see why (it can be done, but will take long). Zero frees up the whole system, makes all the other digits mobile, and makes mathematics possible. Without it numbers are like traffic that is gridlocked: nothing moves. Love is like that. It is the zero response to hatred, it frees us from the depressing cycles of violence.

Claretian Bible Diary