Did you see the NY Post today? I wouldn't image that you did, I didn't either but in it appeared the most unusual and surprising Op-Ed on this day leading into Yom Kippur. It was written by NY Catholic Cardinal-Archbishop Timothy Dolan. I'm not sure how often he quotes rabbis in his remarks but what a world we live in that we can reference each other on this Holiest of Days in the Jewish year.

Cardinal Dolan wrote that during his years as a young parish priest, he often heard his senior pastor counsel the couples he was preparing for matrimony. He told them: "The six essential words you must repeat often if your married life is to be faithful, and forever, are 'I love you,' and 'I am sorry.' "

He continued, "Wise advice, and if I understand this moving holy day our Jewish community commences at sundown Tuesday, those are the six words they will profess to the Lord, individually and communally."

He continued:

"We usually only say "I'm sorry" to those we love. And those we love are moved by that contrition. There is yet another profound insight from the faith of Israel: God loves us, craves our love in return, is eager to forgive us, if we but ask, and likewise wants us to pardon one another.

The Jewish penitential tradition also teaches us a poignant lesson about responsibility and admitting sins. Once, on New

Year's Eve, a reporter asked Mother (now Saint) Teresa of Calcutta, "If you could change one thing in the world this New Year, what would it be?" Her reply: "myself."

The recognition that every one of us is a sinner, and that God calls each of us to change, to conversion of heart, is, as my rabbi friends tell me, at the core of this great holy Day of Atonement.

At a time when, more than ever before, people seem ready to -ascribe the basest of motives to anyone who dares to disagree with their firmly entrenched positions, how revitalizing it is to stop, look inward and examine our own -motives and express contrition when they are less than noble.

In a society that dodges blame, denies guilt, accuses rather than atones, how refreshing to see a community admit sin and ask forgiveness.

In a world dripping with violence, vitriol and vengeance, how consoling to recognize that God passionately, personally and eternally loves us and yearns only for our love in return.

I began with the example of a married couple. Well, God -revealed to the Jews that He loves the People of Israel as a husband loves his wife.
The key to that historic marriage are the six magic words to the Lord, repeated often: "I love you! I am sorry!" If we say those

words with sincerity, the Lord will -respond: “And I loved you first. You are forgiven.”

Thank you, Cardinal Dolan, for teaching all of us a bit of Torah, our shared text on this sacred day. Perhaps if we can all change ourselves in this New Year we can begin, collectively and collaboratively, Jews, Christians, Muslims, people of faith, atheists, agnostics and everyone else maybe we can change the world for good.