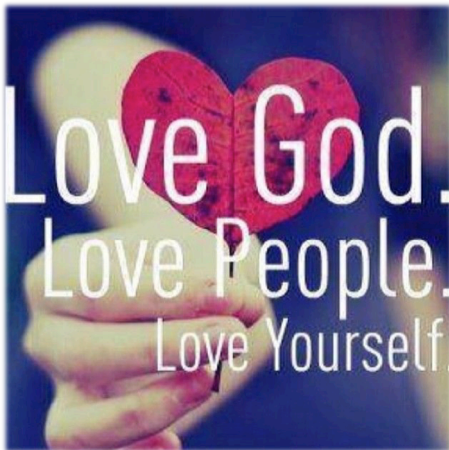


# Charity and Love - February 2019



**Call to Prayer ALL:** “Charity is the cement that binds communities to God and persons to one another.” Vincent de Paul, Coste, Volume 2, page 413



**Hymn:** “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail,  
There God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er  
by Christ's love, By love are we thus bound.

Text: *Ubi caritas*; trans. by Omer Westendorf, 1916-1998  
Tune: CHRISTIAN LOVE, CM; Paul Benoit, OSB, 1893-1979  
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**Scripture:** (Alternate sides, please, as indicated.)

- + Love is patient; love is kind.
- + Love does not envy; love does not boast; love is not proud.
- + Love does not dishonor others; love is not self-seeking.
- + Love is not easily angered; love keeps no record of wrongs.
- + Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth.
- + Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
- + Love never fails. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
- + But the greatest of these is love. adapted 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8, 13 New International Version



**Reflection:** This scripture passage offers us a chance to reflect on our priorities. It tells us that, at the end of the day, it won't be the school we graduated from, our annual income or our zip code that matters. Rather we will be judged by our fidelity to God and the love that we show ourselves and our neighbor. It's as simple as that.

Loyola 3-minutes retreat, 4-27-16, [http://www.loyolapress.com/5215\\_love-lasts-forever](http://www.loyolapress.com/5215_love-lasts-forever)

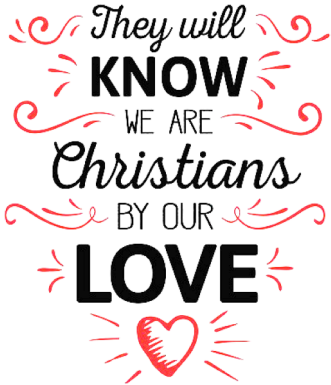
**Prayer Response:** (Please, alternate sides as indicated.)

- + Holy One, shock and save us with the terrible goodness, with the incredible love of Jesus.
- + Drive us deep into a longing for your reign, until we seek it first, not for ourselves, but for your hungry, sick and impoverished children.
- + In our seeking first your reign for them, all will be ours as well,
- + things like a coat and courage and comfort, lilies in the field, birds soaring on the wind, a song in the night and gladness in the heart
- + and the sense of your presence, the realization of your promise that nothing in life or death will be able to separate us
- + from your unconditional love in the crucified one who is Jesus and in whose name and Spirit we pray.

(adapted from Ted Loder, *Guerrillas of Grace*, page 122)

**Reflection and Sharing:** (Pause and ponder the following questions, then share as time allows.)

- ✚ How does my life reflect God’s love and the love I hold in my heart?
- ✚ How am I being invited to grow in love of self, others and God?



**Response:** “They’ll Know We are Christians by our Love”



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**Intercessions: Leader:** Let us pray to our God who shows us unconditional love in Jesus,  
**Response ALL:** Help us love, O God.

- that we may grow in appreciation of God’s incredible love for us, we pray ...
  - that we may find the love needed to accept ourselves and those we find difficult, we pray ...
  - that we may discover Jesus in our needy sisters and brothers, we pray ...
- (Spontaneous prayers are welcome.)

**Prayer All:** Loving God, you make clear to us how to live our lives in harmony with you and one another. Grant us the grace to conform our lives to your law of love, through Jesus, in your Spirit. Amen.

**Blessing Leader:** O God, “may your words be like seeds sown in [our] hearts, bearing a hundred-fold the fruits of charity and good example to the poor faithful.” Vincent, Coste, Vol 3, p. 140  
**All: Amen.**



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**Prayer Texts**

- Romans 8: 35-38 “... the love of God ... comes to us in Christ Jesus...”
- 1 John 3: 7-10 “God’s love was revealed in ... his only Son ...”