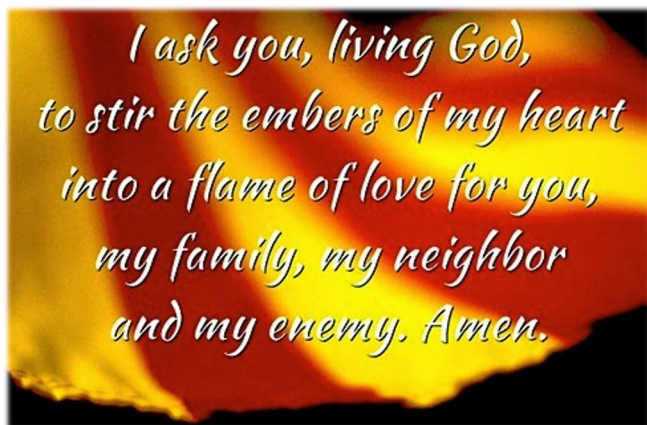


Stir the Embers of My Heart - February 2021



Call to Prayer "Reflect often that it is not enough to have good intentions ... because, when we received the commandment to love God with all our heart, we also received a second commandment which is to love our neighbor." (St. Louise, Spiritual Writings, pages 434-35)


ALL: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians" Peter Scholtes

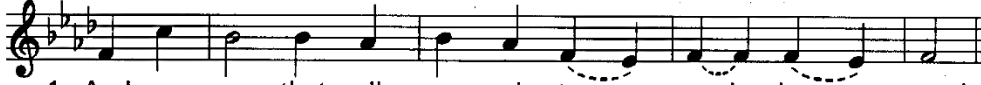
Verses



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
4. All ___ praise to the Fa - ther, from ___ whom all things come,



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
4. And all praise to Christ Je - sus, his ___ on - ly ___ Son,



1. And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
2. And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
3. And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save ___ each one's pride.
4. And all praise to the Spir - it, who ___ makes ___ us ___ one.

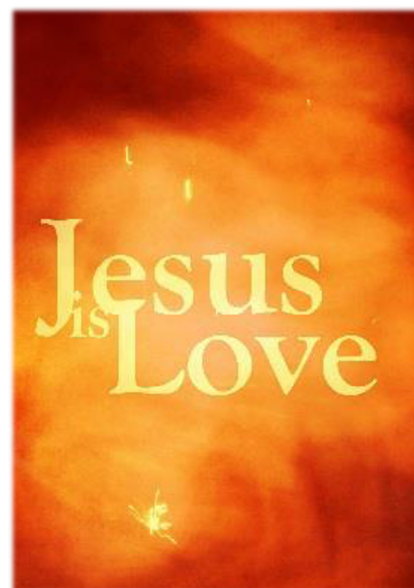
Refrain



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our



love, Yes they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.



Text: 13 13 14 with refrain; Peter Scholtes. Music: Peter Scholtes (1938–2009). Text and music © 1966, F.E.L. Publications, Ltd., assigned 1991 to the Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used with permission.

Messages from St. Vincent

+ "God is love and wants us to go to Him through love." (Coste, volume I, page 81)

+ "Oh, take great care to preserve [your health] for the love of Our Lord and His poor members... The spirit of God urges [us] gently to do the good that can reasonably be done, so that it may be done perseveringly, for a long time." (I: 92)

+ "May Our Lord be in our hearts and our hearts in His." (I: 213)

+ "I beg Our Lord to bind all of us together in His pure love so that together we may love Him uniquely, strongly and eternally." (III: 203)

Reading St. Vincent de Paul urged his followers to believe that "Love is inventive to infinity." He explained that Jesus showed us his great love by coming to live among us. In his teaching, he professed his great love for us and taught us to love one another. Over and over, he showed that his love was inventive. This is most easily seen in his giving himself to us in the Eucharist. St. Vincent used Jesus' example of love being inventive to infinity, to invite his followers to show this same love. What does that mean for us?

We know what the ongoing crisis of the Coronavirus has meant for us. It has kept us from attending Mass in our parish churches, but we have found ways to attend Mass virtually. Very inventive! It could have meant that our service of persons living in poverty would be put on hold until the crisis is over, but that is not happening because Ladies are, in fact, inventive to infinity. It's in our genes! Everywhere Ladies have found a way to continue to feed the hungry and tend to whatever needs poor persons might have. Always inventive to infinity, Ladies of Charity have managed to do this while heeding the advice of "social distancing." Indeed we are inventive to infinity in order to serve our poor sisters and brothers. Undoubtedly, St. Vincent and St. Louise are smiling down on us and saying, "They got it; they got it!" Jesus, too, is surely exclaiming, "Well done, good and faithful servants." adapted from Sr. Paule Freeburg, D.C., 5-2020

Response



Consider and Ponder

Do I perform my daily tasks out of obligation or out of love?
How is my love inventive to infinity?



Our Father

Prayer Living God, stir the embers of our hearts into a flame of love for you, our families, our neighbors, persons who are poor and even our enemies. Please, bind our hearts together into one and strengthen us in our work. (adapted I:163) We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit. Amen.

Prayer Text 1 Corinthians 13: 13

"... the greatest ... is love."