**Charity**

**Call to Prayer** “May your loving heart belong only to Jesus Christ, fully and always, in time and in eternity.” St. Vincent, Coste, volume 6, #2176, page 161, 1656

**Leader**: May the God who created out of love, the God who lived love and the God who inflames our hearts to love, bless us.

**ALL**: **Entering this time of prayer, we rest in God’s love so that we may love well.**

**Leader**: May we believe God helps us to break through and love others especially persons who are living in poverty.

**ALL**: **The love of Jesus urges us to be open, to break through and to love.**

**Hymn** “Where Charity and Love Prevail” (Benoit) verses 1-2, 5

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**Thoughts to Ponder** (Rotate the reading of the following, pausing briefly between each.)

+“*What can shut us out from the love of [God] who will ever dwell within us through love?”* St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Daily Vincentian Calendar, July 16)

+“Love is as strong as death and God alone deserves to be loved and served.”

St. Vincent de Paul, Coste, volume 6, #2174, page 157, December,1656

**Charity** (con’t) 2

+“I ask the Holy Spirit, who is nothing if not love, who is the sacred bond of the Father and the Son, to be the soul … and the gentleness of your words and actions.” St. Vincent de Paul, Coste, volume 8, #3105, page 318, March,1660

+“*All you have is the name of Charity… strive always to have the robe of Charity of which the signs are love of God, love of our neighbor and among [ourselves.]”*



Coste, volume 10, #93, page 379, March, 1658

+“Give yourselves to God, …treat every individual with gentleness and respect, always using kind words and requests .”

St. Vincent de Paul, Coste, volume 8, #3027, page 202, November,1659

+“Do whatever God asks you and remain at peace; above all, love and support one another in Our Lord.” Coste, volume 7, #2646, page 256, August, 1658

+“Love one another… esteem and respect one another as daughters of Our Lord made in the image of God; bear with one another’s little weaknesses as you would wish to be borne with; lastly, comply graciously with one another’s wishes and never argue.” Coste, volume 7, #2768, page 449, January, 1658

+“*You have to love... It is the reason you are here on earth. You are here to risk your heart*.” Louise Erdrich, The Painted Drum

+“*If there is any immortality to be had among us human beings, it is certainly only in the love we leave behind*.” Leo Buscaglia, the thing about Fathers, October 3

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**Reflection and Sharing**

Which quote speaks to my current experience?

How is God inviting me to become more loving?

**Response “**Where Charity and Love Prevail” (Benoit) verse 5

**Leader**: “*Charity is like a flame which soars aloft. When present in a soul, charity raises it aloft to God and draws God to it in such a way that if you could see the beauty of it, you would fall in love with it and be transported with astonishment*.” St. Vincent de Paul

**ALL: Lord, cause charity to so inflame our hearts that everything we do will be an act of love of you. Amen.** (adapted Daily Vincentian Calendar, June 2)

**Leader**: God, bless us, protect us and fill us with love of you and others.

**ALL**: Amen.

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**Prayer Texts**

**1 John 4: 8-13** “God is love … the same love for one another.”

**John 13: 34-35**  “I give you a new commandment ... my diciples … love ...”

prepared for the Ladies of Charity by Sr. Carol Schumer, D.C., February