

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.

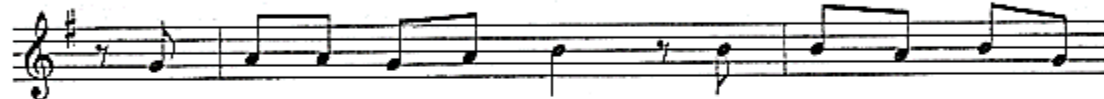
Leader: May we believe God helps us to break through and love others especially persons who are living in poverty.

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



1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail,
2. With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear
3. For - give we now each oth - er's faults
4. Let strife a - mong us be un - known,
5. Let us re - call that in our midst
6. No race nor creed can love ex - clude,



There God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
God's char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
As we our faults con - fess; And let us love each
Let all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry
Dwells God's be - got - ten Son; As mem - bers of his
If hon - ored be God's name; Our fam - i - ly em -



by Christ's love, By love are we thus bound.
mind and soul Now love God in re - turn.
oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
that we seek, Be ours God's ho - ly peace.
bod - y joined, We are in Christ made one.
brac - es all Whose Fa - ther is the same.



Text: *Ubi caritas*; trans. by Omer Westendorf, 1916-1998
Tune: CHRISTIAN LOVE, CM; Paul Benoit, OSB, 1893-1979
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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

+*“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



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 disciples ... love ...”