

Get CONNECTED

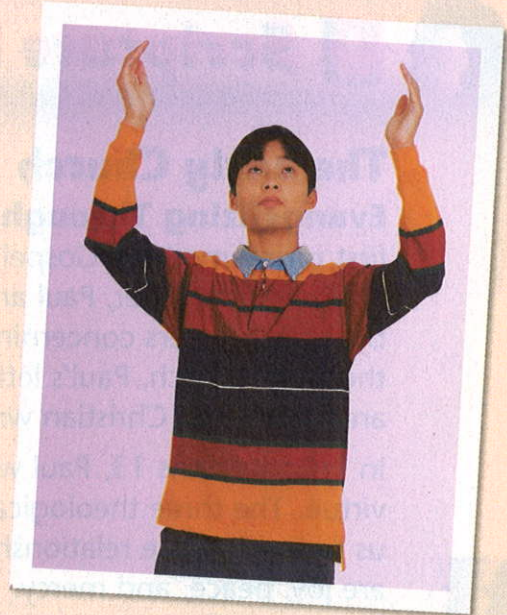
with family and friends

Spreading the Gospel

“If I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing,” wrote Paul to the Church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 13:2). Every disciple of Jesus is called to bring the love, hope, and justice of the Gospel to the world. We spread the Gospel first at home and then in the world by the way we live. Spreading the Gospel means not only sharing our faith but acting with love toward all people.

Activity

Nikki Kissane’s grandfather had a series of strokes that made communication difficult. Thinking of people in the same situation as her grandfather, Kissane approached her university professor to see if she could participate in his research on sign language. Kissane invested more than 600 hours of research over several years on the project. Kissane developed a simplified 500-word sign language, called the Simplified Sign System, to give people with impaired communication skills the chance to communicate fully with others. Kissane has spread the Gospel to others through her genuine concern for people and her desire to make the world a better place for all.



Do one of the following.

1. With family and friends, discuss ways to help a person in need, by developing a solution to a specific problem that person faces.
2. Pictured at right is the sign for God. You can use the Simplified Sign System to help other people communicate. Contact organizations that work with autistic children, brain-injured persons, stroke victims, and others to see if they can use your volunteer help.

Trivivia

● Church History

● Social Studies

● Arts & Culture

● People & Places

Egyptian civilization developed in the fertile land along the Nile River. From its origins as a distinct state around 3000 B.C. through Roman times, Egypt prospered. The history of the Israelites is often set in Egypt, and includes their enslavement under Pharaoh’s rule.

Quotable Scripture

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. —1 Corinthians 1:18

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† Scripture Background

The Early Church

Evangelizing Through Writing The early disciples of Jesus first proclaimed the Gospel by word of mouth. This is known as the oral tradition. Later, Paul and other disciples spread the Good News by writing letters concerning theological, moral, and social issues in the early Church. Paul's letter, or epistles, written before the Gospels, are the earliest Christian writings.

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul writes about love, the greatest theological virtue. The three theological virtues—faith, hope, and love—enable us to live in close relationship with the Holy Trinity. The fruits of love are joy, peace, and mercy.

Read what Saint Paul teaches about love in 1 Corinthians 13:1–13.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Participate in the singing of the hymns, allowing yourself to be moved by the Holy Spirit and to feel his love.

On the Web

blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



Saint Paul of the Cross
(1694–1775)

Saint Paul of the Cross was the son of a wealthy merchant family. He had a conversion experience at age 19. To bring Jesus' message of love and mercy to the poor of Italy, he traveled throughout the country preaching and serving the poor. He is the founder of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, or Passionists.

Feast Day: October 19



A Prayer for the Week

Lord, help us share the Gospel by treating others with love, hope, and justice so that they may see you in our actions. Make us instruments of your peace. Amen.

19 Spreading the Gospel



You will show me the path to life,
abounding joy in your presence. *Psalm 16:11*

Share

In the late 1800s, mascots began to appear at high school and college sports events. Today, you also see them at the Olympic games, theme parks, parades, and professional sports events. Dressed as special characters or animals, mascots are a

fun addition to an organization or team. They represent the team's spirit. They bring energy and enthusiasm to events. Mascots help unite the team and onlookers in spirit and action.



Activity

Name a person who is like a mascot. Explain why.

How could a Christian act as a mascot for the Church?

What do the epistle writers say about love and living the Gospel?

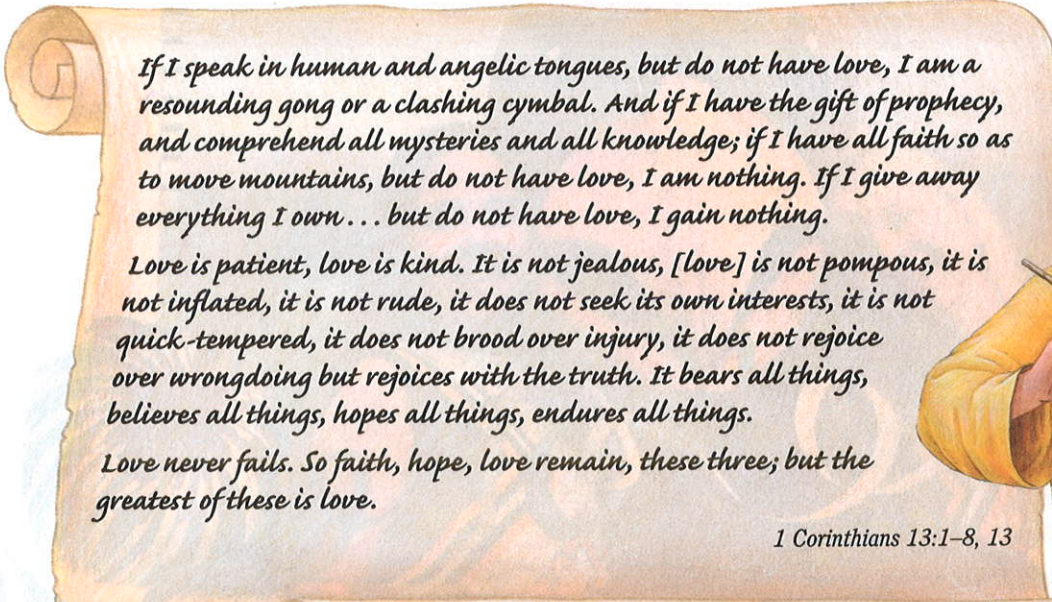


Hear & Believe

Scripture The Way of Love

Christians who announce the Gospel by their words and deeds are **evangelists**, “announcers of the good news.” They **evangelize**, or proclaim the Word of God to the world through their writings, word of mouth, and example. Saint Paul proclaimed the Word of God by writing epistles and other letters to the Church in specific communities, such as Corinth. He urged Christians to use their spiritual gifts to carry on the missionary work of the Church.

The **Catholic Letters** in the New Testament consist of three letters by John, two by Peter, and one each by James and Jude. These letters are called “Catholic” because they were written to the universal Church. Below is a passage from a letter of Paul to the Corinthians and a passage from one of the letters of John to the whole Church. Both letters emphasize love—God’s greatest and most precious gift—and the role of love in the Christian life. Read the passages below and compare their messages.

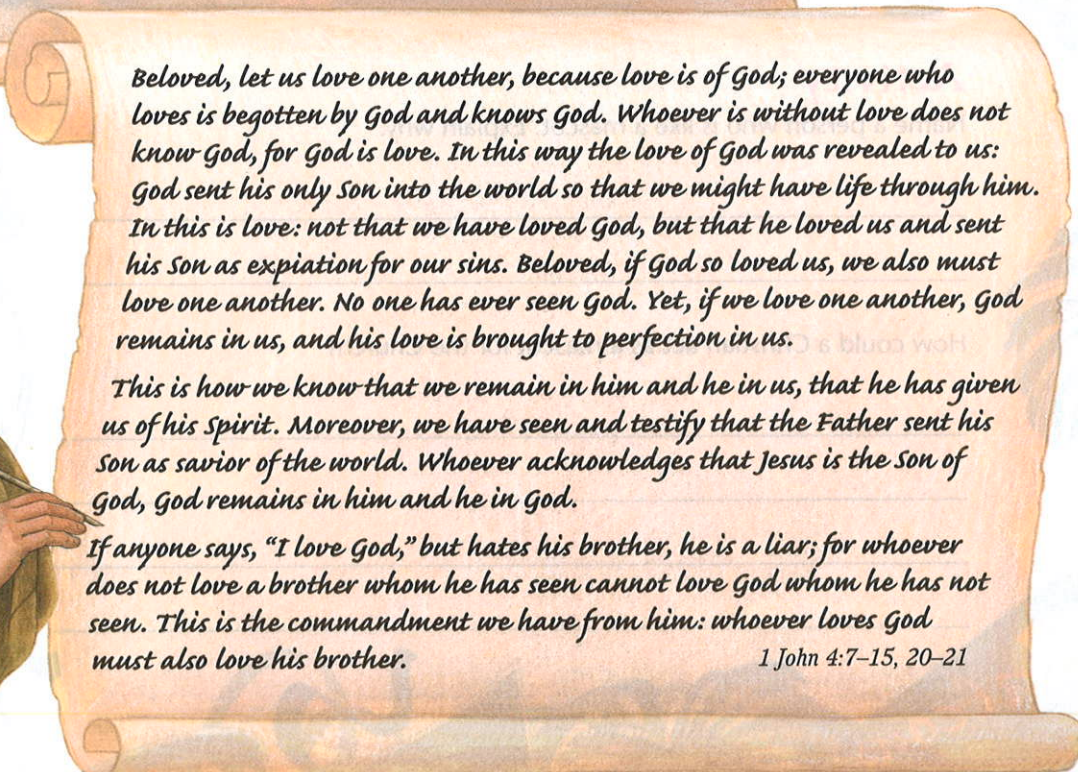
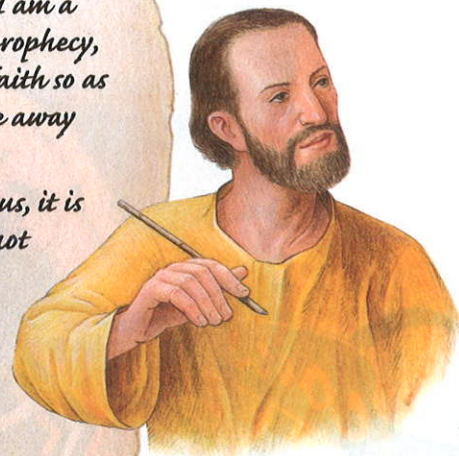


If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own . . . but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:1–8, 13



Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God.

If anyone says, “I love God,” but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 John 4:7–15, 20–21



Sharing the Gift of Love

We evangelize when we spread the truth of the Gospel and share the gift of God's love with others. Love is the greatest virtue and must be the motivating force behind all our words and actions. Saint Paul reminds us that despite all the gifts we might have, we are nothing without the gift of love. And in the First Letter of John, we learn that our love is nothing if it does not begin with loving words and actions toward our neighbors. Both Paul's and John's New Testament letters present us with the kind of love that is found in a true Christian heart, family, and community—the love of God. With the help of the Holy Spirit we can grow in this love and evangelize one another.

Evangelization in the Family

As building blocks of society, families play a key role in carrying out the Church's mission to live as a loving Christian community and evangelize the world through their example of love. In fact, the family is the "domestic church" because it is a community of faith built on love.

Because a family is a living sign of God's love, unity within the family is sacred. Anything that might dissolve this unity, such as adultery, divorce, polygamy, or living together outside of marriage, takes away from the dignity of marriage and family life. Marriage is based on a lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. From their sexual union, a husband and wife become cooperators with God in creating new life. An essential sign of true married love is openness to children, the "supreme gift" of marriage. United in love and faith, the family members evangelize one another and the world by living in God's love.

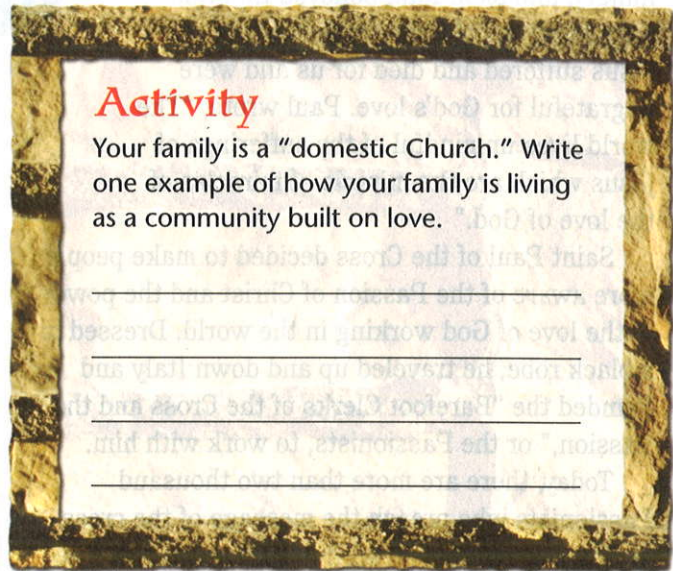


page 414 to learn more about the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Evangelization in Society

The love we build in our homes and in our Church must extend to the world. It is our mission to see God in our neighbor and love our neighbor as

ourselves. Our neighbor might be a person suffering from discrimination, poverty, or oppression. Social and economic inequalities go against the love that the Gospel proclaims. These are injustices we must work to end. We do this because of our **solidarity** with all the members of the human family. Solidarity enables us to recognize the dignity of all before God. When we unite with others, we bring God's love, justice, peace, and compassion into any situation.



Faith Words

evangelist An evangelist is a person who proclaims God to the world by word of mouth, through writings, or as a living example. The Gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called the four Evangelists.

evangelize To evangelize is to spread the truth of the Gospel through our words and love of others.

Catholic Letters The Catholic Letters were letters written to the universal Church. These seven letters are included in the New Testament.

solidarity Solidarity is the unity we share with all people, who are made in the image of God.

How can one person make a difference?

Hear & Believe

Saint Paul of the Cross

The Passion, Death, and Resurrection are the heart of the Gospel. For Paolo (Paul) Francesco Daneo, Saint Paul of the Cross, the Passion and Resurrection of Christ was the greatest work of divine love.

The times during which Paul lived were filled with neglect for the poor, hungry, and sick. Paul believed this was a sign that people had forgotten that Jesus suffered and died for us and were ungrateful for God's love. Paul wrote, "The world lives unmindful of the sufferings of Jesus which are the miracle of miracles of the love of God."

Saint Paul of the Cross decided to make people more aware of the Passion of Christ and the power of the love of God working in the world. Dressed in a black robe, he traveled up and down Italy and founded the "Barefoot Clerks of the Cross and the Passion," or the Passionists, to work with him.

Today, there are more than two thousand Passionists who preach the message of the cross in fifty-two nations on all five continents. They see Jesus in people who are suffering. They believe that when they help the suffering, they are helping Jesus who said, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers [or sisters] of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

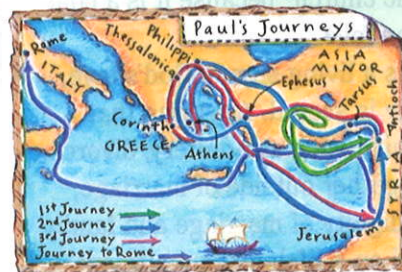


Saint Paul of the Cross (1694–1775)

A CLOSER LOOK

Paul's First-Century Evangelization

After his conversion to Christianity, Paul journeyed to evangelize early Christian communities in places, such as Italy, where he wrote to the Romans and Philemon. From various regions in Greece, Paul wrote to the Corinthians, Philippians, and Thessalonians, as well as to Timothy and Titus. From areas in present-day Turkey, Paul wrote to the Galatians and Colossians.



Our Church Teaches

We are called to promote the dignity and equality of all people, to help eliminate the sins that cause injustice, and to make a difference where we find injustices. By living as faithful Christians at home and bringing God's love to others, we can make a difference. Carrying out our social, political, and economic duties also helps form a just society. We spread the Gospel when we act as responsible citizens, when we stand

up for the rights of others, and when we speak up for what is morally right. The Holy Spirit gives us the courage we need to be able to do this.

We Believe
We share in the mission of the Church when we live responsibly and stand up for our Christian ideals.

One day, it will be your civic duty to pay taxes for services that others need. You will have an obligation to vote for leaders who will work for the common good. It will be up to you to support and work with civil leaders to promote truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom.

You have been told what the LORD requires of you:

Only to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God (based on Micah 6:8).

Only to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God (based on Micah 6:8).

Activities

1. It is sometimes said that Saint Francis of Assisi told his followers to "preach the Gospel always; and if necessary, use words." How does the work of the religious order Saint Paul of the Cross founded, the Passionists, preach the Gospel message through actions and not just words?

2. How might all Christians reach out to people who are suffering and share their faith in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus?

3. Write a prayer asking God to help you be an evangelist to those in need, especially those who are lonely, poor, or are suffering in any way.

have been told what the LORD requires of you:

How do we spread the Gospel by our actions?

Respond

Everyday Evangelization

Each of us is called to evangelize both through our words and our actions. And, as Ricky in this story clearly understood, evangelizing sometimes means going against the crowd.

Before the first bell, as the students were gathering on the playground, Lucia tripped and fell. She knew it wouldn't be long before someone laughed. She was used to being teased and bullied by one particular group of students. Every day since Lucia had come to Saint Mary's School two months ago, this group had found a new reason to pick on her.

When Lucia fell, everyone on the playground froze. For an instant, Ricky froze, too.

If I help Lucia, those kids will come after me, too, Ricky thought. *But this just isn't fair. I have to do something.* Almost before he knew it, he was at Lucia's side, helping her up.

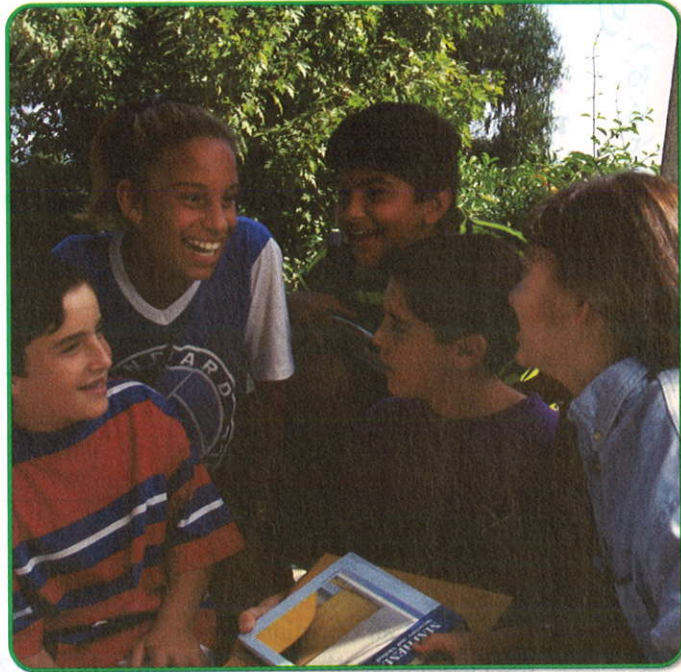
"Look at Rick. What a hero!" the boys yelled.

"Lucia's got a boyfriend! Lucia's got a boyfriend!" the girls chanted.

This is awful, Ricky thought. *How can I get them to leave her alone?*

That night Ricky talked to his friends. "What can we do?" he asked Jason, Emily, and Lily.

Ricky and his friends decided to ask Lucia to sit with them at lunch the next day. Then Lily asked her to join in an after-school kickball game. At first,



the bullies stood and watched, yelling insults at the players. But when they saw that other students were joining the game, too, they settled down. By the end of the week, the group had stopped bothering Lucia. As the school year progressed, Lucia and some of the kids who used to tease her had even become friends.

Activities

1. How do you evangelize in your daily life? What part of the way you live is a good example of Christian love?

2. What does Christian love mean to you?



3. Describe Christian love as it is explained in the passage from the letter of Paul that you read. Then reflect on how your ideas of love might better match the examples in Paul's letter.

4. Living in God's love and evangelizing often mean taking risks. Think about someone you know who stood up for their faith in Christ. What questions might you ask this person to help you follow their example?



How can we praise God and celebrate those who proclaim his message?



Prayer Celebration

A Prayer of Praise

Praise is a type of prayer in which we take time to reflect on the wonder and greatness of God. We consider the blessings of God's love in our own lives and in the lives of those around us. Think about a time when you experienced the greatness of God.

Leader: Let us take time to praise God and thank all those who evangelize and continue to spread his love to the world.

All: I will extol you, my God and king;
I will bless your name forever.
Every day I will bless you;
I will praise your name forever.
Great is the LORD and worthy of high praise;
God's grandeur is beyond understanding.
One generation praises your deeds to the next
and proclaims your mighty works.
They speak of the splendor of your majestic glory,
tell of your wonderful deeds.

Psalm 145:1-5

A Complete the sentences, using words from the box.

perfection
words

world
love

mountains
virtue

remains
domestic

1. "If I have all faith so as to move _____, but do not have _____, I am nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:2).
2. We must extend the love we build in our homes and in our Church to the _____.
3. The Christian family is often called the "_____ Church" because it is built on love.
4. "If we love one another, God _____ in us, and his love is brought to _____ in us" (1 John 4:12).
5. Love is the greatest _____ and must be the motivating force behind all our _____ and actions.

B Respond to the following.

1. Saint Paul proclaimed the Word of God by writing letters to the early Church. In what ways can you be an evangelist and proclaim the Word of God to others?

2. In the passage from 1 Corinthians on page 288, you read Saint Paul's message about the necessary qualities of love. Choose one of these qualities and explain what it means to you.

C **Unscramble** the words to complete the sentences.

1. Sometimes (NAGEEZVLNIIG) _____ means going against the crowd.
2. One day you will have an (IOBAGNOLTI) _____ to vote for leaders who will work for the common good.
3. We share in the (SNMIOSI) _____ of the Church when we live responsibly and stand up for Christian ideals.
4. Civil leaders must promote truth, justice, (YISLOTIRAD) _____, and freedom.

D **Match** Column A with Column B by writing the correct number in the space provided.

A

1. solidarity
2. evangelist
3. Catholic Letters
4. evangelize

B

- ___ a person who proclaims God to the world by word of mouth, through writings, or as a living example
- ___ letters written to the universal Church
- ___ to spread the truth of the Gospel through our words and love of others
- ___ the unity we share with all our brothers and sisters, who are made in the image of God

E **Write** a four-line prayer of praise to God, using the first verse of Psalm 145 on page 294 as a model.
