



The Virtue of Love

Leader: Love draws us together as friends, families, communities, and most importantly, as God's children. Let's take a few minutes to reflect on the virtue of love as members of this community of faith.

**Opening Song (optional);
They'll Know We Are Christians (Scholtes)**

Reader 1: Let us pray...
Loving God, we praise You for the love You pour out on us every day. We pray to grow in Your love so that all who see us come to believe in You more fully. We make this prayer to You in the name of Jesus, Your Son, and our Lord. Amen.

Reader 2: A reading from the Gospel of John.
Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Pause for a moment of silent reflection

Reader 1: God gives us the gift of His love at baptism so we can share it with others. Each day, we are given new chances to show His love to the world.

Reader 2: We live the virtue of love when we put God first; when we give of ourselves without expecting anything in return; when we show compassion, caring, and thoughtfulness towards others because we are all children of God. Think for a moment about how you can live the virtue of love today.

Pause for a moment of silent reflection

Reader 1: October is the Month of the Missions in the Catholic Church. As members of the Missionary Childhood Association, it is also a time for us to begin another school year of living the virtue of love for children who need our help and may never be able to repay us.

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Leader: Our response to the prayers is:
Lord, Hear Our Prayer.

Reader 2: For the children of **Afghanistan** who are facing extreme hunger, we pray that our love may reach them through the missionaries we support.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, Hear Our Prayer.

Reader 1: For the children of the **Democratic Republic of Congo** who are very sick from preventable diseases, we pray that by supporting missionaries, we can bring them the health care they need. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, Hear Our Prayer.

Reader 2: For the children of **Papua New Guinea** who are alone and live on the streets, we pray that they will feel our love through the missionary social workers we support with our sacrifices. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, Hear Our Prayer.

Reader 1: For children in **Argentina** who are forced to work on farms and in factories, we pray that by sharing our gifts, we will help to keep them in school. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, Hear Our Prayer.

Reader 2: For the children of **Ukraine**, who have lost their homes, their schools, and in some cases, their family members because of war, we pray that our love for them translates into the peace that all God's children deserve.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, Hear Our Prayer.

Leader: Let us gather all these children in our love as we pray as Jesus taught us.
Our Father...

Leader: Loving God, we thank you for the love which you so generously pour out on us. During this Mission Month, help us to live our mission of love so that all children - near and far - may see your Divine Love in our everyday actions. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**