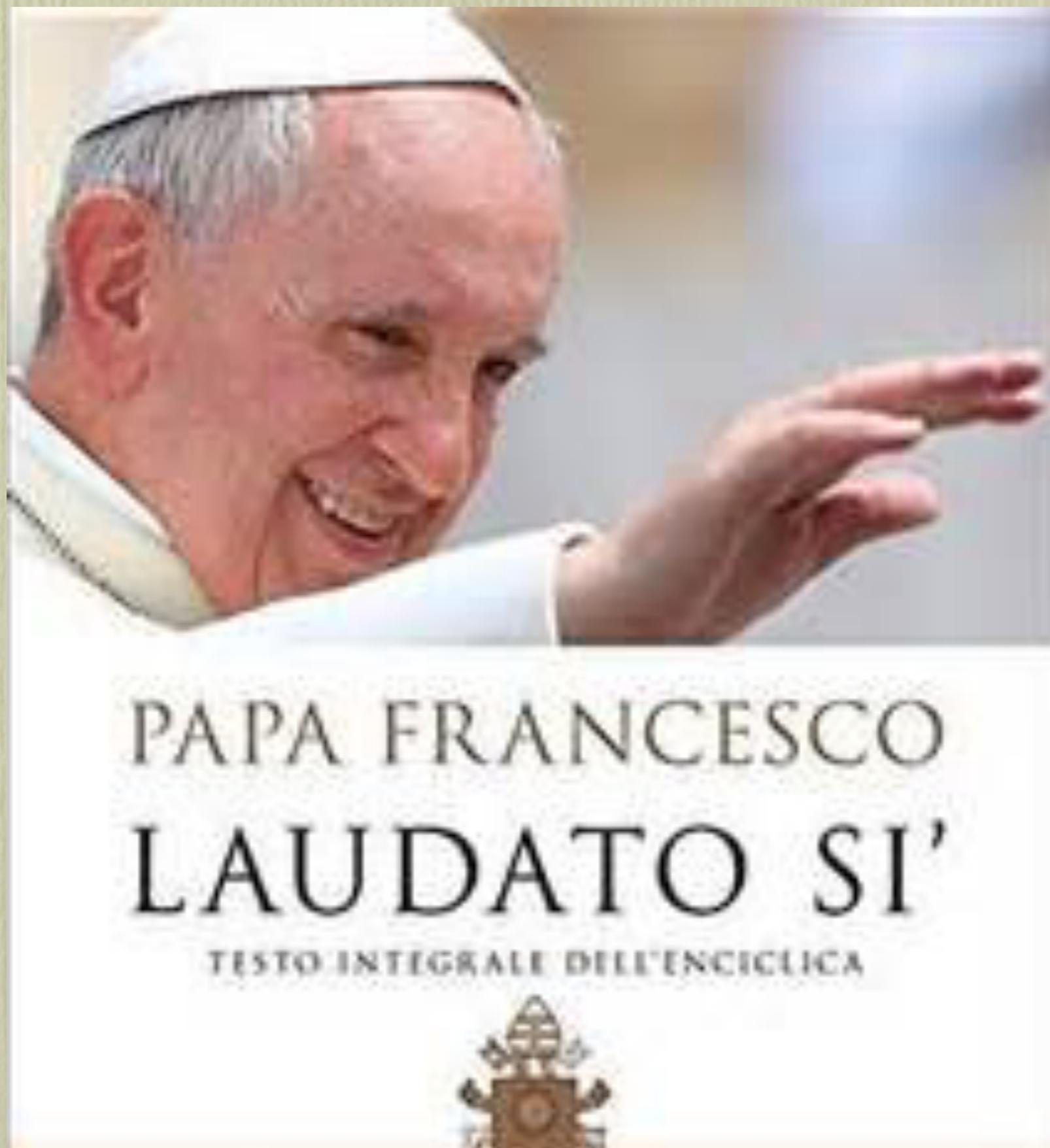


o4. Background: 'Come to me' – sharing Jesus' life and mission



1. Called to experience Jesus' compassion

Galatians 2:20

It is no longer I who live. It is Christ who lives in me.
And the life I now live in the flesh
I live by the faith of the Son of God,
loving me and giving himself for me.

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches.
If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.
Apart from me you can do nothing.

Mark 14:22

While they were eating,
taking a loaf of bread, and blessing
he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.”



‘I have come to cast fire upon the earth
and how I wish it were blazing already’ (Luke 12:49)

Teilhard de Chardin 1934

‘Some day,
after harnessing space,
the winds,
the tides
and gravitation,

We shall harness for God
the energies of Love.

And then,
for the second time in the history of the
world,
we shall have discovered fire.’

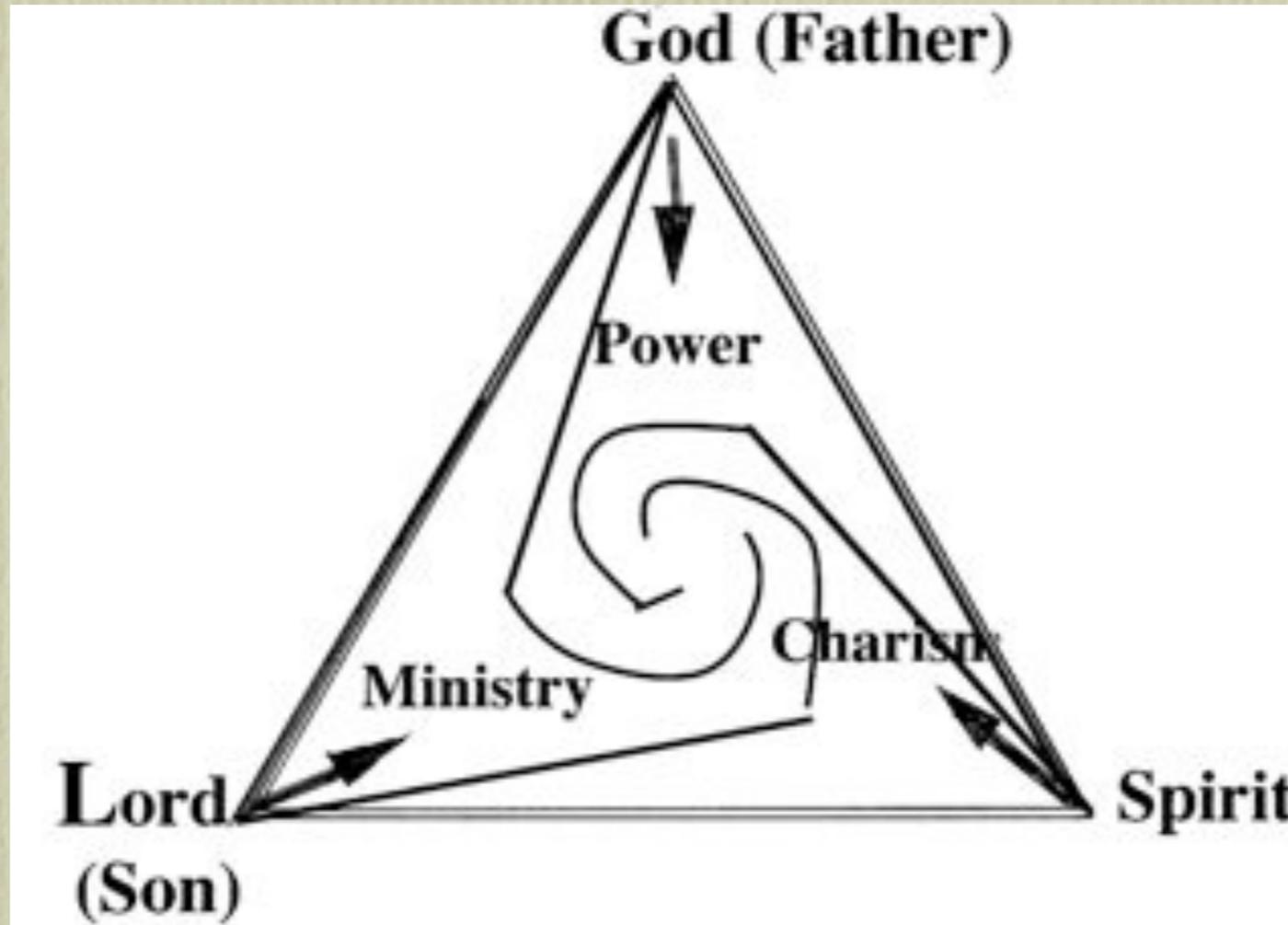
Roman Catechism, Council of Trent, 1545-1563, Preface 10.

‘The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching
must be directed to the love that never ends.

Whether something is proposed for belief,
for hope or for action,
the love of our Lord must always be made accessible,
so that anyone can see
that all the works of perfect Christian virtue
spring from love
and have no other objective
than to arrive at love.’

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

[3] there are varieties of ways of exercising power [energema]
but it is the same God who activates them all in everyone.



[2] there are varieties of ministries
[diakonia]
but the same Lord;

[1] 'There are varieties of gifts
[charisma]
but the same Spirit;

Mark 12:41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury,
and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury.

Many rich people put in large sums.

A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins,
the equivalent of two cent pieces.

Then he called his disciples and said to them,

“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more
than all those who are contributing to the treasury.

For all of them have contributed out of their abundance;
but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had,
all she had to live on.”

John 13:34

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you;
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you
a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you.



‘From the Heart of Jesus
pierced on Calvary,
I see a new world coming forth –
a great and life-giving world,
inspired by love and mercy:
a world which the Church must
perpetuate on the whole earth.’
(Jules Chevalier, Sacred Heart 1900)

2. Called to experience Jesus' obedience

‘Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,”
will enter the kingdom of heaven,
but only the one
who does the will of my Father in heaven’(Matthew 7:21).

‘Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven
is my brother and sister and mother’(Matthew 12:49-50).

‘A woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Jesus,
“Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you
But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God
and obey it!” (Luke 11:27-28)

‘Want only what God wants’ (Teresa Interior Castle II. I. 7).

‘Prepare yourself with determination and every possible effort to bring your will into conformity with God’s will. The greatest perfection attainable along the spiritual path lies in this conformity. ... In perfect conformity to God’s will lies all our good’ (Teresa Interior Castle II. I. 8).

‘What does it profit you to give God one thing if he asks of you another? Consider what it is God wants, and then do it. You will as a result satisfy your heart better than with something toward which you yourself are inclined’ (John of the Cross Sayings of light and love 73).

‘Now, abandonment alone guides me. I have no other compass!
I can no longer ask for anything with fervour,
except the accomplishment of God's will in my soul,
without any creature being able to set obstacles in the way.’

(Therese of Lisieux)

Ephesians 4:15

Do the truth in love.

Pedro Arrupé SJ

‘More than ever, I now find myself in the hands of God.
This is what I have wanted all my life, from my youth.
And this is still what I want.

But now there is a difference:
the initiative is entirely with God.

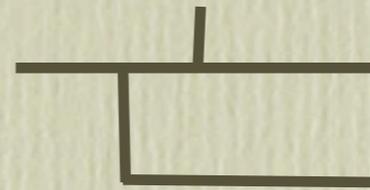
It is indeed a profound spiritual experience
to know and feel myself so totally in his hands,
in the hands of this God
who has taken hold of me.’

3. Called to experience Jesus' prayer

Busy - Iso gashii



Heart



Destruction

What is Prayer?

Therese of Lisieux:

“Prayer is a surge of the heart;
a simple look turned towards God,
a cry of recognition and love,
embracing both trial and joy.”

Teresa of Avila:

“Prayer is an intimate sharing between friends ...
taking time frequently to be alone
with we One who we know loves us.”

“Look at him. He never takes his eyes off you.”

John of the Cross:

“The language God hears best is silent love.”

Saint Ambrose (340-397) on Psalm 118. 12-14.

“The Father and I will come and make our home with you.”

‘Let your door be open to him when he comes, open your soul, throw open your inmost mind, so that it may see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart, meet the sun of eternal light that enlightens everyone. That true light, indeed, shines on all, but if anyone of you has closed your windows, you will rob yourself of the eternal light. Christ too is shut out if you shut the door of your mind. Although he is able to enter, he does not wish to rush in uninvited. He does not wish to force the reluctant ...

Saint Ambrose (continued)

Blessed are you at whose door Christ knocks. Our door is faith, which, if it is strong, fortifies the whole house. It is through this door that Christ comes in ... He visits those who are being tempted and in tribulation that no one may fall, overwhelmed by distress ... If you are asleep and your heart is not awake, he goes away without knocking; if your heart is awake, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him.'



Prayer of Presence

Teresa writes: 'I am not asking you to do anything more than look at him. Who can keep you from turning the eyes of your soul towards the Lord? ... He never takes his eyes off you' (Way of Perfection 26.3).

'It is good to reflect for a time ... but we should not always weary ourselves in seeking these reflections, but just remain there in his presence with the intellect quiet. If we can, we should occupy ourselves in looking upon him who is looking at us. Keep him company. Talk with him. Pray to him. Humble ourselves before him. Delight in him' (Life 13.22).

Prayer of Quiet

When we were in control of our prayer we worked for such quiet, now the quiet wells up from the mysterious depths of the soul. We are drawn into an experience of prayer from within.

The Gift of Contemplation

We should be wary of setting strict guidelines for what to do when God grants us the gift of contemplation. God is directing us now, and God's light is lighting our way, however faintly and intermittently. Furthermore, people differ greatly. We should offer ourselves in peaceful and silent surrender to God.

Romans 8:26-28

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Gregory the Great c.600

Because of the ardent love of her heart,
Mary continued seeking him
when she could not find him,
even after the other disciples had gone away.
In tears she kept searching, and, afire with love,
she yearned for him.



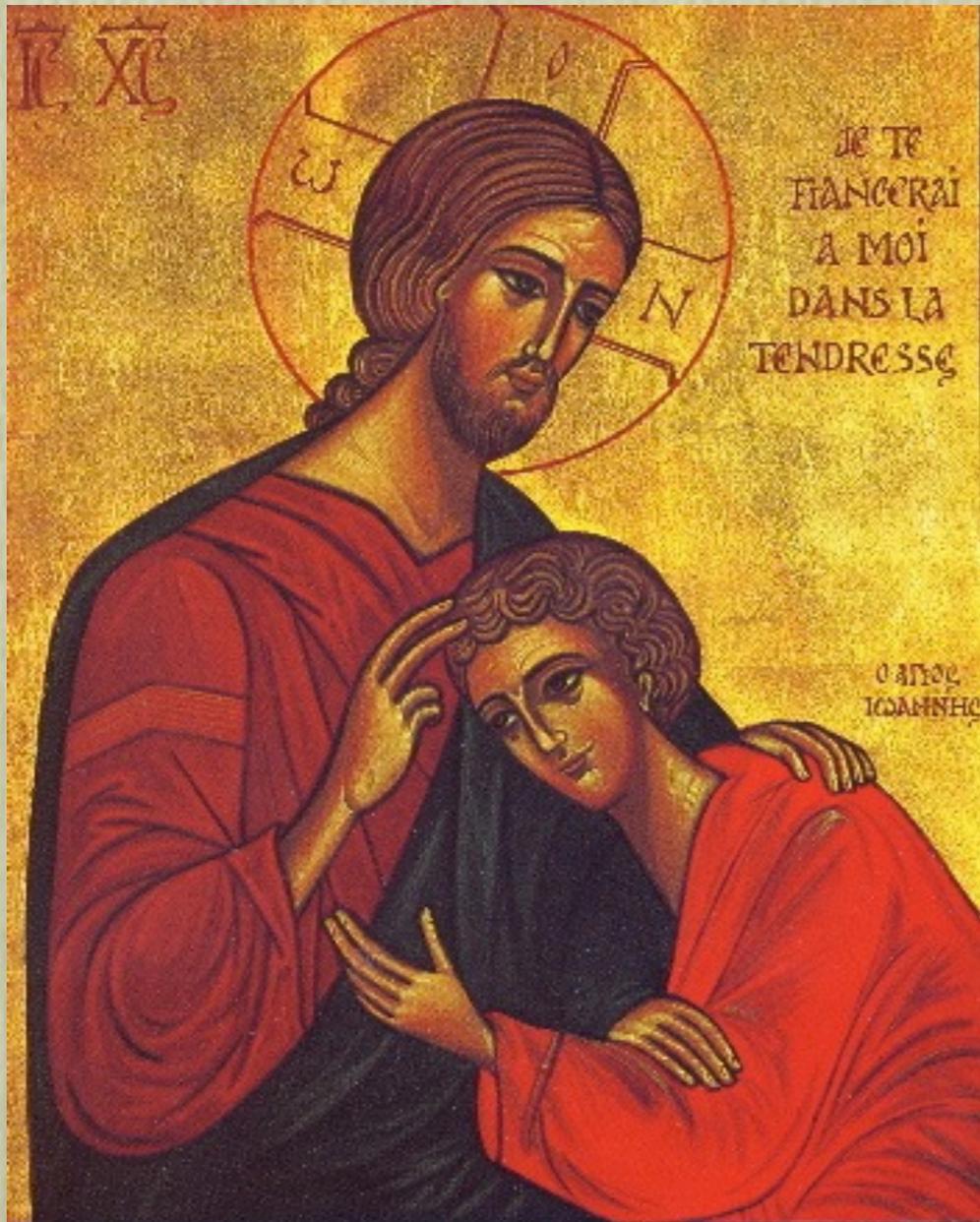
Thus it happened that she alone saw him.
She had already sought and found nothing,
but she continued seeking and so found the object of her love.
While she was seeking, her longing grew stronger and stronger,
until it was allayed in the embrace of Him whom she was seeking ...
At first she did not recognise him, but then Jesus said to her: 'Mary' ...
as if to say: 'Now recognise the one who recognises you' ...
Outwardly it was He who was the object of her search,
but inwardly it was He who was teaching her to search for Him.



- ‘I am in the Father and you are in me and I in you’ (John 14:20).
- ‘I pray that they will be one as we are one, with me in them and you in me’ (John 17:21).

John 15:9

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.



Jesus tells us that the love which he has for us has its origin in the love which his Father has for him. It is the human expression of the intimate communion which is the very being of God.

With the Beloved Disciple we are being invited to share Jesus' divinity: to be with Jesus **'in the bosom of the Father'**(1:18).