



Focus on essentials



“When we adopt a pastoral goal and a missionary style which would actually reach everyone without exception or exclusion, the message has to concentrate on the essentials, on what is most beautiful, most grand, most appealing and at the same time most necessary’(n. 35).

Jesus, God's Son

The Dancer

God the 'Father'

The Singer

The Lover

God's Spirit

The Dance

The Song

Love



The Dancing

The Singing

The Loving

‘The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the hierarchy of the truths of faith.’(Catechism, 234)



Knowing that God is Spirit reminds us to be attentive to the divinely inspired movements of our own heart: movements of longing as we yearn for closer communion with God whose Spirit inspires us; movements of wonder and praise as we rejoice in God being with us. It reminds us to be sensitive to these movements in every man and every woman.



Knowing that God is Word reminds us to be attentive to the words and actions through which God speaks to us, and the words and actions through which we respond to God. We learn, too, to reverence the sacred ground of each person's Spirit, and be attentive to each person's Word, as together we journey towards God who is the Source ('Father', 'Mother') of all.



Knowing that God is Father reminds us to open our hearts to God's love and to treat every other person as our brother or sister.



John 3:34

‘He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.’

Romans 5:5

‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.’



Galatians 2:19-20

‘I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but 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.’

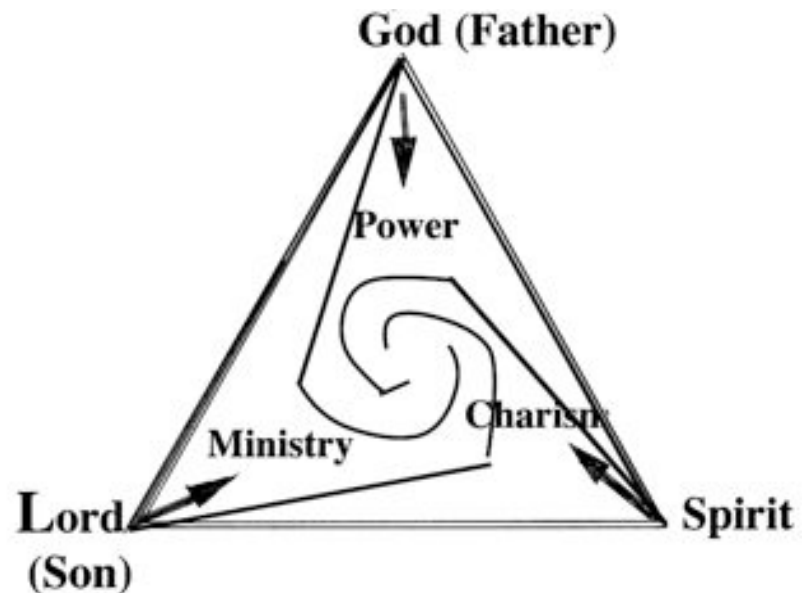
1Corinthians 12:4-7

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

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

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

To each is given the manifestation of
the Spirit for a good purpose.



Everyone is needed
for a vibrant church
to carry out Jesus' mission
in the world.

Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Ephesians IV,1-2

‘Let every one of you become a chorus of song,
so that in the harmony of your concord,
adopting the melody of God in unity,
you will sing for the Father in one voice,
in Christ Jesus.’

1Corinthians 1:10-12

‘I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,
by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that all of you be in agreement
and that there be no divisions among you,
but that you be
united in the same mind and the same purpose.

‘We are all in the same boat and headed to the same port!
Let us ask for the grace to rejoice in the gifts of each,
which belong to all’(n. 99).

'Do this in memory of me.'



Tintoretto

Central place of love: Francis quotes from NT (n.161).

The art of compassionate listening (n.171).

No one will listen to our proclaiming the Good News unless they [see and feel love](#).

Colossians 3:12-14

‘As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.’

The love of the heart of Jesus is the love given to Jesus by God. It is this love that is poured into our hearts through the gift of the Spirit, and it is this love that overflows from our hearts to embrace our brothers and sisters.

As Paul writes: ‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us’ (Romans 5:5).

George Herbert Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back,
 Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
 If I lack'd anything.

"A guest," I answer'd, "worthy to be here";
 Love said, "You shall be he."

"I, the unkind, the ungrateful? ah my dear,
 I cannot look on thee."

Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
 "Who made the eyes but I?"

"Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them; let my shame
 Go where it doth deserve."

"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"
 "My dear, then I will serve."

"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat."
 So I did sit and eat.

‘Love never stops caring;

love acts always in a kind way.

Love does not act out of jealousy or envy;

love does not boast; or behave arrogantly;

love does not behave indecently or insist on its own way.

Love does not give way to irritation; or brood over wrongs;

love takes no pleasure in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

Love has space enough to hold and to bear everything and everyone.

Love believes all things, hopes all things, and endures whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end.’

‘Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.

Let all that you do be done in love’(1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

1Corinthians 13:4-8

Mark 12:41-44

The widow's mite

‘This poor widow has put in more than all who have contributed to the temple treasury, for they have put in what they had over, but she, from the little she has, has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.’

Mark 1:40-45 (embracing the outsiders)

‘A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him,
“If you want to, you can make me clean.”

Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “Of course I want to. Be made clean!”

Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country. People, however, came to him from every quarter.’



Philippians 2:5

‘Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.’

‘If then there is any appeal in Christ,
any consolation from love,
any communion in the Spirit,
any movements of compassion and feelings of love,
make my joy complete:
be of the same mind, having the same love,
being of one soul and of one mind.

Philippians 2:1-5

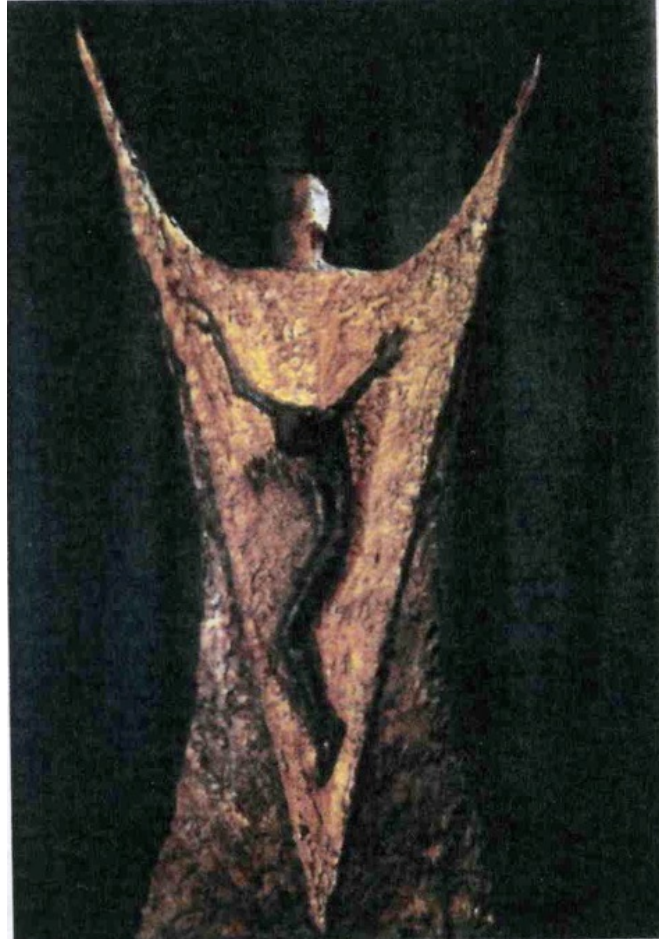
Do nothing from selfish ambition.
Do not strive after or seek to find your value
in things that are worthless,
but in humility regard others above yourselves,
so that not everyone is focused on themselves,
but each is looking to the interests of others.
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.’

Philippians 2:6-9

‘Being in the form of God,
Jesus did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself and became
obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God highly exalted him.’



Paul de Jaegher SJ 'One with Jesus'

Transformation into Christ not imitation of him



2Corinthians 3:18

‘All of us, with unveiled faces,
seeing the glory of the Lord as
though reflected in a mirror,
are being transformed
into the same image
from one degree of glory
to another;

for this comes from the Lord,
the Spirit.’



‘Whoever has seen me has seen the Father ... I am in the Father and the Father is in me’(John 14:9-10).

‘I will ask the Father and he will give you the **Spirit** to be with you for forever’(John 14:16).

‘**I** am coming to you’(John 14:18).

‘**My Father** will love you and we will come to you and make our home with you’(John 14:23).

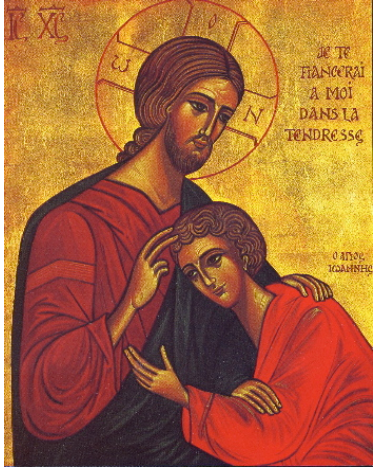
Indwelling

'O most beautiful of creatures, transcendent spirit,
who long to know where your beloved is
and where you may find him
so as to be united with him. He dwells within you.
You are yourself the tabernacle, his secret hiding place.
Rejoice, exult, for all you could possibly desire,
all your heart's longing is so close,
so intimate as to be within you;
you cannot be without him'(John of the Cross, Spiritual Canticle 1,7).

- Jesus exclaimed: ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, “Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water”.’ Now he said this about the **Spirit**, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified (John 7:37-39).
- ‘The water that I will give will become in you a spring of water gushing up to eternal life’(John 4:14).

Romans 8:26-28

‘The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the 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. All things work together for good for those who love God.’



Augustine,

Tract on John 18.10.1

‘Return to the heart!

Why are you running away from yourself?

Why are you getting lost, outside yourself,
entering on deserted ways?

You are wandering aimlessly. Come back! To where?
To the Lord! It can be done quickly!

Return immediately to your heart!

Exiled from your own self you wander outside.

You fail to know yourself, you who
want to know the source of your existence.

Come back! Return to the heart ...

See there what you can learn about God,
for the image of God is there.

In your heart dwells Christ.

In your heart you are being renewed
after God’s image.’

John of the Cross – Oh llama de amor viva : The Living Flame of Love

Stanza 1 Flame, alive, compelling,
yet tender past all telling,
reaching the secret centre of my soul!
Since now evasion's over,
finish your work, my Lover,
break the last thread, wound me, and make me whole.

Stanza 2 Burn that is for my healing!
Wound of delight past feeling!
Ah, gentle hand whose touch is a caress,
foretaste of heaven conveying
and every debt repaying:
slaying, you give me life for death's distress.

John of the Cross – Oh llama de amor viva : The Living Flame of Love

Stanza 3 O lamps of fire bright-burning
with splendid brilliance, turning
deep caverns of my soul to pools of light!
Once shadowed, dim, unknowing,
now their strange new-found glowing
gives warmth and radiance for my Love's delight.

Stanza 4 Ah! gentle and so loving
you was within me, proving
that you are there in secret and alone;
your fragrant breathing stills me,
your grace, your glory fills me
so tenderly your love becomes my own.

John Michael Talbot

O living flame of love, tenderly wound my soul
to its deepest inner heart, without oppression.
Come, consummate our love,
tear through the veil of our union.
If it be your will come and rend the veil of the temple.

O lamps of fire in deep caverns of feeling,
Once obscured and blind
Are now leading in the warmth
and the passion of Your love.

Yet gently your hand does wound
as you rend through the veil of my temple.
Come, take this life that I give,
So that I might come to live in this our dying.

