

MAKE LOVE VISIBLE

**Exploring the different ways to make our work contribute to helping
“make love visible” for another person, family, group or community**

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are made for love.

We are made to love, and to be loved.

Each one of us longs to be loved, because love is the source and the meaning of our lives. Without love, our lives feel empty, meaningless, and lonely. Most of us have found that nothing can take the place of love—nothing can satisfy us but love, given and received, by which we experience the love of God.

We are made by Love, in the image of Love, and for the purpose of Love—because God is love, and God has created each one of us in and through love.

Indeed, love is at the center of what it means to be a human person in the image and likeness of God. And the whole Christian mystery is the story of God’s love for us—the love of Jesus Christ, who came into the world for love of mankind and to do the will of the Eternal Father who is the Father of Love by the power of the outpouring of Love who is the Holy Spirit. The Holy and Blessed

Trinity is a Community of Love. This God of Love is our genesis, our journey and our destiny.

Christ came into the world because the bonds of love between God and mankind had been broken by sin and only he could repair them. He came because God loves us enough to atone for our sins. He came in love to undo the brokenness, pain, emptiness and death brought forth by our frequent failure to love. He came to accept the death we deserve as sinners, to die so that we could have life to the fullest and life eternal without end. He came to save the world through love. In love he became a sacrifice to atone for our sin, bring salvation to the world and open the Gates of the Eternal Life for each and everyone of us from generation to generation. He is love made visible.

Love in action is selfless sacrifice, and sacrifice is the language of love. Love is the gift of ourselves to our beloved. And Christ made a gift of himself—he gave us his body and blood—poured himself out for our salvation, when he conquered death by his dying and rising.

Christ gave us his body and blood, as an act of love, so that we could know the love of God. We must become what we receive. We too must offer our body and blood to make love visible through our actions for love of God and love of neighbor.

We must make love visible by visible actions in response to the Powers of Darkness with the Power of Christ the Light who disperses the darkness.

As Disciples of Christ the Light I recommend ten steps to bring Christ to another person, to the family of families, to the community of communities and to the people of peoples of the world.

The Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' teaching. They take up the promises made to the chosen people since Abraham. The Beatitudes fulfill the promises by ordering them no longer merely to the possession of a territory, but to the Kingdom of Heaven itself:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Do I strive - with my time, talent and treasure - to accumulate more money, more power, more pleasure and more honors as the perennial substitutes for God? Do I have the Spirit of an unspeakable secret desire? Do I live as divided Spirit of a double life? Do I have dark spirits of recurrent obsessive thoughts and desires in my active imagination that make me wander in the darkness of temptations, obsessions and possessions?

We make love visible when we take up arms against the world, our flesh and the devil by becoming Prayer Warriors of Spiritual Warfare. God's mission has an enemy---the Anti-Christ. Satan and his forces are real. We must draw our strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. We must put on the armor of God so that we may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil and hold our ground for the Kingdom of Heaven in this Culture of Death. Scripture is clear we must stand fast with our loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, our feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace, holding to faith as a shield, to quench all [the] flaming arrows of the evil one and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Do I sorrow over the sins committed by myself and others, considering how much they offend God and how they bring more evil and disorder into the world? Do I do offer sufficient penance for my own sins, and reparation to God for my sins and the poor souls in purgatory? Or do I practice a Fake Faith full gestures and movements of religiosity in substitute for an authentic Faith in God?

We can make love visible when provide the gift of witness and presence healing the isolation and the loneliness that often results from loss for those who mourn with grief at the loss of their loved ones. Do we stand at the foot of the Cross of the bereaved?

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Am I obstinate and quarrelsome, always trying to assert my will over others in regard to petty and unimportant things? Do I strive to overcome evil with good by responding to offenses with patience and a good will, instead of retaliating in anger and malice? Have you ever wished someone dead or that some evil might befall them, their family or their reputations? Have you ever used someone in the occult to cast a curse, spell or an act of retaliation against a perceived enemy?

We make love visible when we forgive those who trespass against us. Who would you name as the three people most difficult for you to forgive? Have you forgiven them? Are you ready to start today? Are you mid-point? Can you honestly pray the Lord's prayer in good conscience when you say "Thy will be done"?

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Am I trying to become more holy by conquering my habitual sins and diligently practicing acts of virtue? Do I love Jesus and strive to do His will above all things, instead of my own? Do I contribute to neutralizing the credibility of others through innuendo, exaggeration, malicious gossip and the manipulation of half-truths.

We make love visible when we become soldiers for social justice in our fight in defense of the unborn and the murder of the poor, the mentally ill, the handicapped and the sick through euthanasia by helping to promote a Catholic Health Directive and a POLST (Provider Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) for the end-of-life.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Are my eyes and my heart open to the spiritual, mental and the physical sufferings of others? Do I try to relieve their pain and misery through spiritual and corporal works of mercy? Am I sensitive to the homeless, to people with severe mental illness, the aged and the disabled in the community.

We make love visible when we convert our prayer into prayer in action to relieve human suffering by becoming Extraordinary

Ministers of Holy Communion. Saint Mother Teresa says it best. *Like Mary, let us be full of zeal to go in haste to give Jesus to others. She was full of grace when, at the Annunciation, she received Jesus. Like her, we too become full of grace every time we receive Holy Communion. It is the same Jesus whom she received and whom we receive at Mass. As soon as she received Him she went with haste to give Him to the poorest of the poor. For us also. As soon as we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, let us go in haste to give Him to our brothers and sisters, to the poor, to the sick, to the dying, to the lepers, to the unwanted, and the unloved. By this we make Jesus present in the world today.*

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Do I try to keep my heart, mind, and soul untainted by the evil influences of this fallen world? Do I guard the purity of my senses by being cautious and discriminatory about what I allow myself to see, watch, and hear? Do I wander away from God by consulting faith healers, astrologers, psychics and fortune-tellers? Am I mesmerized by fortune telling in fortune cookies, lucky charms, lucky numbers and lucky dates in pursuit of the Golden Calf?

We make love visible by addressing the Pornography Pandemic in the Catholic Church. We are bombarded with sexualized images all the time with pornography only a click away. We can

support the USCCB campaign "Wash Me Thoroughly": Healing from Pornography Use and Addiction.

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/pornography/wash-me-thoroughly-healing-from-pornography-use-and-addiction.cfm>

Add to that the abomination of the Pedophilia and Cover Scandal up that is rocking the universal church. Bishop, Priest, Deacon, Religious Sister and Religious Brother and the Lay Faithful must abide by God's commandments or earn the consequences of their sins and crimes before God and Man. Let us not forget that the 1983 Code of Canon Law (CIC) eight sins carry the penalty of automatic excommunication: apostasy, heresy, schism (CIC 1364:1), violating the sacred species (CIC 1367), physically attacking the Pope (CIC 1370:1), sacramentally absolving an accomplice in a sexual sin (CIC 1378:1), consecrating a bishop without authorization (CIC 1382), and directly violating the seal of confession (1388:1).

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Do I strive to keep my soul in the peace of Christ? Do I look for ways to bring greater order and harmony among persons in my family or place of work and my Parish or do I participate in

perpetuating discord and strife? Do I practice Triangulation, which is a manipulation tactic where a person doesn't communicate directly with another and processes their discontent with a third person and then refuses to act as a mediator, clarifier, or bridge builder.

We make love visible when we use a Catholic guided examination of conscience on a regular basis and frequent Sacramental Confession to receive Divine Mercy and forgiveness. This is the First Exorcism in dealing with the Devil and with our attachments and addictions to patterns of sin.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Do I count it a joy when I suffer wrongs for the sake of doing good? Do I offer up my trials and tribulations to God for the salvation of souls? Do I persecute others by neutralizing their credibility through disrespectful engagement, particularly in vocal intonation, body language and explicit or implicit cues that keep individuals attached to a pecking order, maintaining and supporting an “in group” and “out group” class system in the Church and in the world.

We make love visible when we follow the teaching of Saint Paul, “True disciples must abandon the violence of “biting and

devouring one another” (Galatians 5:15) and choose instead to “serve one another through love”

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.

Am I living my Catholic faith authentically so that others can see that I am a devout follower of Jesus Christ? Do I avoid proclaiming the truths taught by His Church for fear of being disliked, ridiculed, or persecuted? Do I remain silent in my family place, work place or church place when we hear slander, defamation and anti-Catholic rhetoric against Christ, his Church and his teaching? Remember silence is agreement!

We make love visible when we proclaim the Gospel with both our words and most profoundly in our actions. Hypocrisy is the pretension to qualities which one does not possess, or, the putting forward of a false appearance of virtue or religion. God who loves what is good must hate what is evil. God who loves what honors his name and must hate what dishonors it. God who loves what blesses his people must hate what harms his people. God loves the sinner but hates the sin. It could not be any other way and we would not want it any other way.

**Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.
Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

In Roman Catholicism prophets are recognized as having received either public or private revelation. Public revelation is part of the "deposit of faith," which refers to the entire revelation of Jesus Christ passed to successive generations in sacred scripture and sacred tradition.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters may you receive the Gift of Prophecy and protect the Deposit of Faith. I leave with a familiar message.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where the Master trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.

2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.

3. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

4. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally.

5. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!

May you lift up the cross all the days of your life and hand it off,
untarnished to our families and communities in succeeding
generations until we are all home in our Father's House.

