



“How beautiful it is to love one another as true brothers and sisters. How beautiful! Let’s do something today.”

— Pope Francis

“Intense love does not measure, it just gives.” — Mother Teresa

Sacrificing for Love

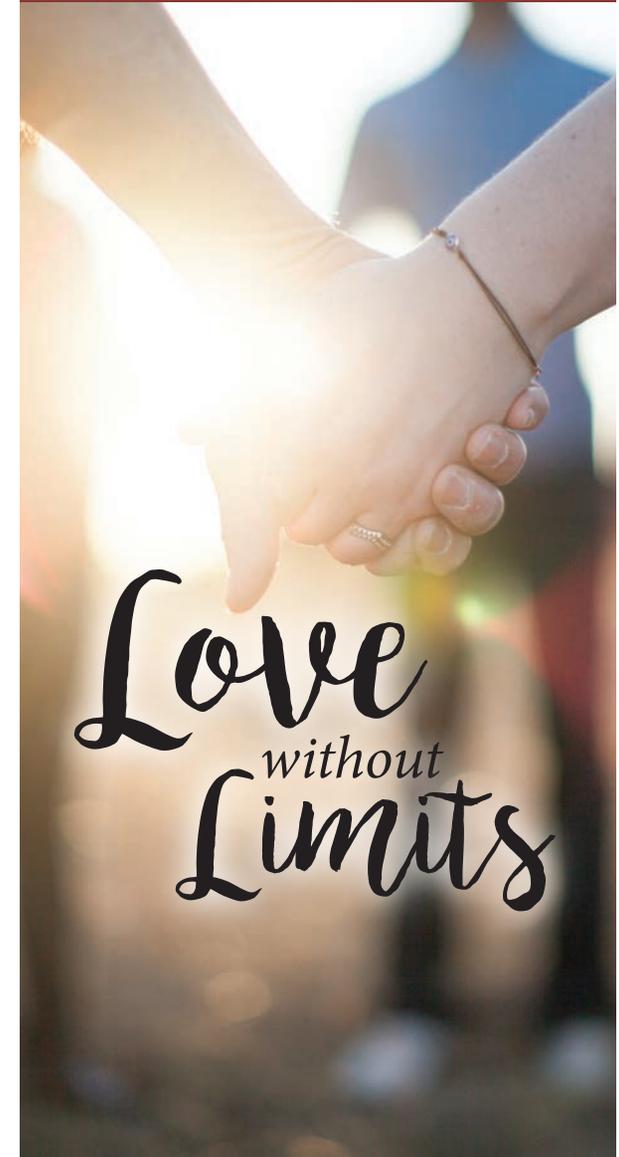
For most of us, there is no limit to the amount of love we give to our children, our parents, our spouses. As Catholics, we profess there is no limit to the love we give to our God. By proclaiming to love God above all, thereby living as intentional disciples following the example of His Son, we are called to extend *Love without Limits*, as Jesus did.

Sacrificial giving is an expression of love, not simply because of the amount given. Sacrificial

gifts are prayerful, planned and proportionate to an individual’s ability to give, made with the complete understanding that all we have, including our financial resources, is only ours to steward for the benefit of others and to proclaim the kingdom of God.

When we stop and consider how much to give - how much to sacrifice for love of God and our neighbor we should remember what God sacrificed for love of us.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING



Love
without
Limits

“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”

— 1 John: 3:18

Love and Prayer

How many of us wish that we had more time with our growing and adult children? How precious is a call on Mother's Day, on Dad's birthday or just for no reason at all? For most parents, children keeping in touch is often the most heartfelt gift of all.

God, too, would like to hear more from his children. Time spent in prayer for a "thank you", help with life's challenges, or especially for no particular reason, reflects God's gift of time back to its Source. For an intentional disciple and faithful steward, love and prayer are one and the same.

Love and Action

True love is experienced at a personal level. We understand the love we receive, and the love we give, to our spouses, our children, our families and even our friends. For many Catholics, the love of God is also personal as we strive to answer his unique call to each of us. Answering God's call, however, challenges us to extend love outward as far as we possibly can; beyond the people and causes we know.

Many people make regular and significant sacrifices for those they love such as deferring "things" to save for a child's education or leaving a career to care for an aging parent. Others spread love outward through mission trips and community service. Through all of these acts, and many more, Catholics are answering God's commandment to "Love one another".

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." — John 3:16



Love and Money

The word "love" brings to mind heart-felt emotions while "money" brings to mind the nuts and bolts of life. It might seem that one is, and should be, disconnected from the other. The reality is that our financial resources are but one more gift given to us by our generous God through which we are called to extend love.

Financial support of our parish provides one powerful way for each of us to extend love in tangible, impactful ways beyond our personal "worlds". Through our parish ministries we extend love to the bedside of the sick and homebound, we participate in educating our children in the faith, we comfort grieving families—and do so much more!