



The screenshot shows the FaithFirst.com website interface. At the top left is the logo "faith first e-media 4 Catholic spiritual formation". To the right is a search bar and the "RCL Benziger" logo. Below the header is a navigation bar with "Catholic Schools Week" and a dropdown arrow. The main content area features four large images: a woman holding books, a man with arms crossed, two girls looking at a book, and a family hugging. Below these images are four blue buttons labeled "Program Directors", "Teachers / Catechists", "Students", and "Parents / Family". A "Quick Links" section follows, with a grid of links: About Faith First, Lesson Planner, Lectionary, Catechetical Newsletter, Catechist Resources, Questions of the week, Chapter Reviews, RCL Benziger Sacraments, Saints Resource Center, Gospel Reflections, En Espanol, and Shop Online. At the bottom right, it says "© 2010 RCL Benziger, All Rights Reserved."

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TEACH

FOCUS

Remind the young people that Paul teaches us that love is the greatest virtue and that if we don't have love, we have nothing. Tell the group that this page will help them further understand our call to love.

DISCOVER

- Ask volunteers to read aloud "Put On Love" to describe what Saint Paul was teaching the Christians in his Letter to the Colossians.
- Have the young people work with partners to compare Jesus' teaching on love and Paul's teaching.
- Read aloud the "Did you know . . ." sidebar and invite the young people to reflect on ways they live the works of mercy.
- Ask volunteers to read "The Sacrament of Love" to describe the connection between Christian living and the Eucharist.

Understanding the Word of God

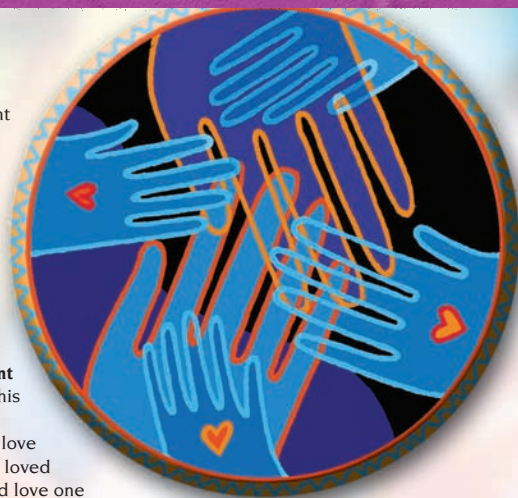
Did you Know...

Mercy and Kindness

The biblical word for *kindness* and *mercy* is the same. The mercy of God is the unconditional kindness God shows us—a kindness we do not deserve nor can we earn. When we pray "Lord, have mercy," we ask God not only to forgive us but also to continue to share his love with us. When we strive to share this same kindness with others, we are striving to put on love, that is, the bond of perfection as Paul charges us to do. Living the Works of Mercy is a plan to strive to do what Paul charges all Christians to do.

Put On Love

The thread woven throughout the garment described by Paul is love. His teaching on the preeminence of the virtue of love in Colossians, and in 1 Corinthians and throughout all his letters, is based on Jesus' teaching on love. We are to live by the **new commandment** of love that he taught his disciples, "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" (John 13:34–35).



the Greek word *eucharistein*, which is the same word the Church uses for the sacrament of the Eucharist.

The Sacrament of Love

Some Scripture scholars believe Saint Paul urged the Colossians to make the connection between Christian living and the Eucharist. He admonished them that whatever they do, they should give *thanks* to God the Father through Jesus. If you read this letter in Greek, you would read

These admonitions of Paul help us understand that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life. Sharing the Eucharist, we are joined to Christ and one another. We are to put on love and let the peace of Christ control our hearts—and all we say and do. Our lives are to give thanks to God the Father through Jesus.

FAITH CONNECTION

In small groups name situations of violence in the world today. Reread Colossians 3:12–15. How might Saint Paul's teaching guide people in dealing with one of the situations you named?

Responses will vary.

Affirm appropriate responses.

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APPLY

REINFORCE

Ask volunteers to describe what Saint Paul is saying to the Colossians about the Eucharist.

INTEGRATE

Have the young people remain in partners to share times when it has been easy and times when it has been difficult to love others.



Background: Liturgy

Eucharistic Acclamations. To remind the young people of the power of the Eucharist in their lives, review with them how the worshiping assembly responds by proclaiming one of these Memorial Acclamations:

"We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again."

"When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again."

"Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free."

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial
with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the
forgiveness of sins and I look
forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.



*The Holy Trinity,
stained glass*

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Celebrating the Mass

The Introductory Rites

The Entrance
Greeting of the Altar and
of the People Gathered
The Penitential Act
The Gloria
The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading from
the Bible (Usually from
the Old Testament)
The Responsorial Psalm
The Second Reading from
the Bible (Usually from
New Testament Letters)
Acclamation
The Gospel
The Homily
The Profession of Faith
The Prayer of the Faithful



The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts
The Prayer over the Offerings
The Eucharistic Prayer
The Communion Rite
The Lord's Prayer
The Rite of Peace
The Fraction, or the
Breaking of Bread
Communion
The Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites

Greeting
Blessing
Dismissal of the People

Celebrating Reconciliation

Individual Rite of Reconciliation

Greeting
Scripture Reading
Confession of Sins
Act of Contrition
Absolution
Closing Prayer

Communal Rite of Reconciliation

Greeting
Scripture Reading
Homily
Examination of Conscience with Litany of
Contrition and the Lord's Prayer
Individual Confession and Absolution
Closing Prayer

Act of Contrition

My God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.