

Teach

PRAY

Have a volunteer lead the class in praying the Lord's Prayer.

FOCUS

Remind the students that Saint Paul teaches that love is the greatest virtue and that if we do not have love, we have nothing. Write the "Faith Focus" question on the board. Ask the students how they might now answer it. Tell the class that this page will help them further understand Jesus' teaching on love.

DISCOVER

- Ask volunteers to read aloud "Put on Love."
- Have the young people work with partners to compare Jesus' teaching on love with Saint 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.

Apply

REINFORCE

Ask volunteers to describe the teaching of Saint Paul on the Eucharist.

INTEGRATE

Have the young people work with partners to share times when it has been easy and times when it has been difficult to love others as Jesus taught.

Understanding the Word of God

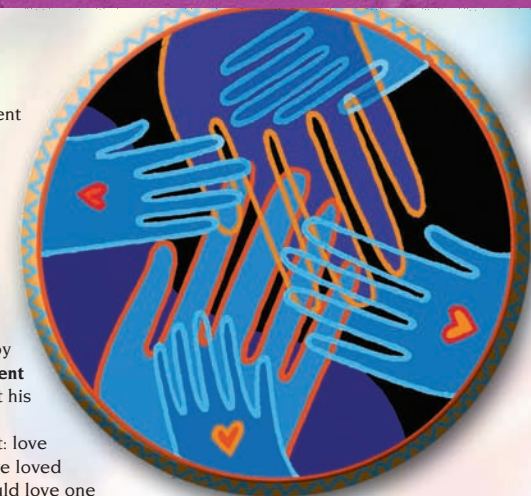
Did you Know...

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.

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.

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

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.



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.