

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

THE POWER OF LOVE

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues

but do not have love,

I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy

and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;

if I have all faith so as to move mountains,

but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own,

and if I hand my body over so that I may boast

but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous, love is not pompous,

*it is not inflated, it is not rude,
it does not seek its own interests,
it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing
but rejoices with the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never fails.*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:31-13:8

Reflection

St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians invites us to reflect on the nature and power of love. If we believe that God is love, and that we are made in God's image, then we are to be God's love in the world. Love is the only thing we take with us when we transition from this life, through death, into new life. In my experience, love is the most -- maybe the only -- true transforming power in the world.

The founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1650 summarized his experience of God's abiding presence in these words: "I love Love [God] and let Love [God] love through me."

Slowly and thoughtfully read the familiar verses from 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8. Read them aloud for a second time. Let the words wash through you. Ponder the meaning for your own life. And then sit in silence allowing one word or phrase to resonate in your heart.



Sunset Seen Through Heart
Photo by Revieshan

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