



# Loving Others in Christ

*LET US PUT OURSELVES IN GOD'S PRESENCE.*

## ***Biblical Wisdom***

“The Spirit which the Lord pours forth gives a new heart, and renders man and woman capable of loving one another as Christ has loved us” (Pope John Paul II, *On the Family*, no. 13).



## ***Loving Others in Christ***

When a man and woman marry, they promise lifelong fidelity to each other and become a communion of persons with the capacity for begetting new life. Through the graces of the Sacrament of Matrimony, married couples continue to cultivate their individual identities while establishing their spousal identity in Christ. Spouses cultivate their personal and spousal selves by loving their spouses and any children that God gives them. Parents respond to their God-given vocation when they dedicate time, career, and even life itself to being good examples and providing for the ongoing Christian education of their children. Similarly, single people witness to Christ's self-giving love: for example, when taking care of sick parents. Such a witness is a lesson for single, divorced, or married Christians. Just as Jesus sacrificed for us, so we must do the same for others. When Jesus' love for the adulterous woman, the leper, and children becomes our own, we better understand our deepest identity. . . .

*Pause to reflect on loving others in Christ.*

## ***Reflection Questions***

The wisdom learned from observing the selfless love of parents invites us to ask the following questions:

1. What married couple, widow, single person, or divorced person is an example of Jesus' selfless love for you? Please describe how.
2. What inspirational biblical stories serve as examples of selfless love? How do these stories help you cultivate your gift of self?

*Let us pray to Mary, the Mother of God, asking her to ask Jesus, her Son, to help us imitate her selfless love.*