

# STAFF DISCUSSION JOURNAL

## *Going Deeper*

### PART 1

## Scripture Reflection

As a staff, take a few moments to sit in total silence. Silence is a rare commodity and central to how God speaks with us.

Slowly read aloud this passage from 1 John 3

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

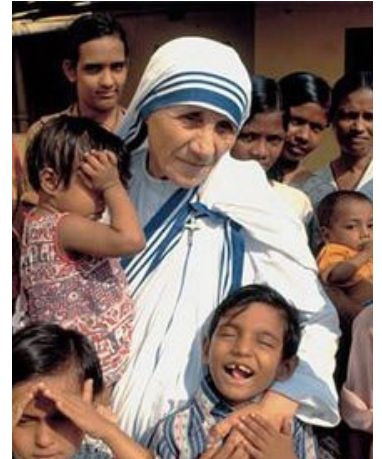
This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us."

### Questions For Group Discussion:

Now, take a few moments in silence and then read it one more time.

As Catholics, what is our standard for love? What does this standard require of us?

What is it about the life and commandments of Christ that is so revolutionary? Why does it require the presence and grace of God to live out?



"People who love each other fully and truly are the happiest people in the world. They may have little, they may have nothing, but they are happy people. Everything depends on how we love one another."

Mother Teresa

### PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the following quote from The Religious Dimension of Education In a Catholic School n.86

"Teachers cannot avoid discussing these issues, but they should insist that the commandment of Christ is new and revolutionary, and that it stands in opposition to all that is evil and to every form of egoism. The new Christian ethic needs to be understood and put into practice."

How can we help our students to understand the radical and supernatural love of the Gospel? How can we help them to learn to put it into practice?

### STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the constant and radical love that you have for each of us. Thank you for coming among us in order to show us the Father's love.

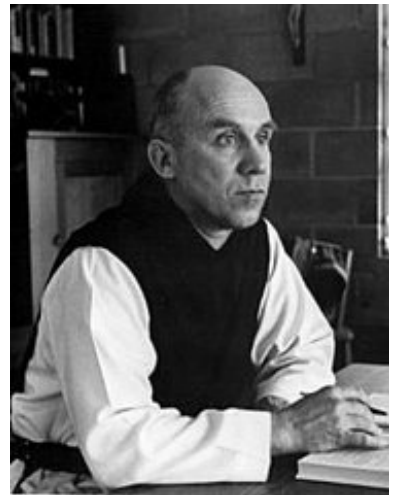
Give us the grace to respond to your call to love selflessly. Give us the grace to model this love to our students.

Help us to teach our students about the supernatural and countercultural love that you've modelled in your life, death and resurrection. Help us to emphasise that Christian love requires your grace and the power of the Holy Spirit.

We pray that our students would learn to love selflessly. Help them to adopt and practice your call to love one another as you have loved them.

In your name, Jesus, we pray.

Amen.



"Love seeks one thing only: the good of the one loved. It leaves all the other secondary effects to take care of themselves. Love, therefore, is its own reward."

Thomas Merton