

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.

After some time in silence, have one person read the following scripture from Colosians 3 12 -14

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

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

Questions For Group Discussion:

Looking at some of the virtues and dispositions in this passage discuss as a group how prevalent they are in your school culture and staff culture. Which ones are less present?

What do you notice in verse 12 about the possible relationship between God's love for us and the response it calls for from us toward others? In your group share with each other about whether or not you personally encounter God's love regularly and personally? How might this be shaping your ability to demonstrate charity toward others?



"There is nothing which edifies others so much as charity and kindness, by which, as by the oil in our lamp, the flame of good example is kept alive."

St. Francis de Sales

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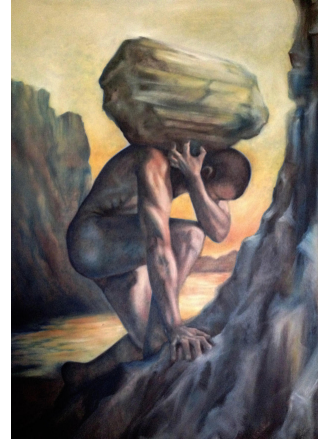
PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the following quote:

"...every educator is in need of a permanent and growing charity, in order to love each of the students as an individual created in the image and likeness of God, raised to the status of a child of God by the redemption of Jesus Christ."

Lay Catholic in Schools Paragraph 72

Share with your group about a student who you find hardest to love. What does this student trigger in you? How might the encounter with God's love for you help you grow in charity?



"Be kind, for everyone you meet is engaged in a battle."

St. Philo of Alexandria

STAFF PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Apart from you we can do nothing. You are truly the vine and we are the branches. Even the desire to love our students better is itself a grace that comes from you.

We pray this week for the grace of charity to be truly present in our school. Help us to first experience your love for us before all things. In knowing that love let a new stream of gentleness, compassion, patience and understanding become stronger in all our interactions with each student and colleague.

Give us especially the grace to love those we find hardest to love. Give us your heart for them in a new way and may charity be the very essence of our school community this coming week.

We make this prayer in your holy name.

Amen