



COR₁₀
HEART OF THE
FATHER



**Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque
Prayer to the Sacred Heart:**

Lord Jesus,
Let my heart never rest until it finds You,
who are its Center, its Love, and its Happiness.
By the wound in Your heart
pardon the sins that I have committed
whether out of malice or out of evil desires.
Place my weak heart in your own Divine Heart,
continually under Your protection and guidance,
so that I may persevere in doing good
and in fleeing evil until my last breath.
Amen.

Lectio Divina: Love Your Enemies (Luke 6:27-38)

Brothers in Christ, we gather today to prayerfully reflect on Jesus's challenging teachings on love in the Gospel of Luke (6:27-38). These verses challenge us to the core, inviting us to a love that transcends boundaries and reflects the very heart of God. Let us open our hearts to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we delve into these powerful words.

Meditation (Reading and Reflection):

Read Luke 6:27-38 slowly and with reverence. Pay close attention to the specific words and phrases. What resonates most deeply with you? What challenges you? What message is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through these sacred verses?

Invite these questions to rest in your heart:

- Jesus says, "Love your enemies." How do you react to this command? Who do you consider to be your "enemies," and how does Jesus's teaching challenge your understanding of this concept?
- Jesus gives specific examples of how to love our enemies: do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Which of these actions feels most difficult for you, and why?
- Jesus emphasizes reciprocity: "Give, and it will be given to you." How does this principle of generosity connect with the idea of loving our enemies? What does it mean to give without expecting anything in return?
- Jesus asks, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?" What does this say about the nature of true Christian love? How does it differ from the world's understanding of love?
- Jesus calls us to be "merciful, just as your Father is merciful." How does God's mercy serve as a model for our own actions? How can we cultivate a more merciful heart?



Contemplation:

- Choose a word or phrase from the passage that particularly touched your heart (e.g., "Love your enemies," "Be merciful," "Give").
- Enter into a sacred silence, holding this word or phrase gently in your heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to illuminate its deeper meaning for you.
- Imagine yourself listening to Jesus deliver this teaching on the mountainside. What is the tone of his voice? What emotions do you sense in his words? How does his presence affect you?

Call to Action (Prayer and Action):

As the words of Scripture echo in your heart, you might find yourself drawn to these paths of prayer and action:

- Lift your heart to God in prayer, asking for the grace to love as Jesus loves. Confess the areas where you struggle with this love.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you concrete ways to put these teachings into practice in your daily life. Who are the "enemies" in your life – those who have hurt you, wronged you, or simply annoy you? How can you extend love and forgiveness to them?
- Pray for those who have hurt you. Ask God to bless them, even if it feels difficult.
- Reflect on your own giving. Are you generous with your time, talents, and resources? How can you give more freely and without expectation of return?
- Consider how you can be a more merciful presence in the world. Where do you see a need for mercy in your community, your family, or your workplace?

A Moment of Grace:

The Gospel of Luke reminds us that we are called to a love that transcends human limitations. May we be empowered by the Holy Spirit to embrace this love, reflecting the mercy and compassion of our Heavenly Father. Amen.

Our Shared Lectio Divina Journey

Three volunteers will lend their voices to the Sacred Text, inviting us into three profound encounters with the Word. After each reading, we will pause for a moment of sacred silence, allowing the words to penetrate our souls.

- Following the first reading, we will share a word or phrase that ignited our hearts. This simple act of sharing weaves a tapestry of spiritual perspectives, enriching our individual journeys.
- After the second reading, we will delve into the depths of meaning, reflecting on how the chosen word or phrase resonates with our personal experiences. This deeper contemplation allows us to connect the divine message to our lives in a tangible way.
- Finally, after the third reading, we will consider the divine invitation before us. This call to action might be a whisper of guidance, a nudge towards transformation, or a spark of divine inspiration. Let us share our insights with open hearts, fostering a sense of spiritual community and shared purpose.

✠ Lectio Divina ✠

The Demands of Christian Love

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 6,27-38.

Jesus said to his disciples: "To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit (is) that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful. Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

As We Depart

God of Love, we thank you for your Word and the presence of your Spirit. As we have reflected on Jesus's call to love, open our hearts to the power of your mercy. Grant us the strength to follow this challenging path, to love as we are called, and to be merciful as you are merciful. May these words take root in our lives and bear fruit in acts of love.

And as we go forth, help us to remember the words we have heard, and to live them out in the world, bringing your love to all we encounter.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Last Saturdays of the Month
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St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. Inspire us, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, bless those who curse us, pray for those who mistreat us, offering the other cheek and not withholding our tunic, giving to everyone who asks of us, and lending expecting nothing in return, so that we may be merciful, just as our Father in heaven is merciful. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.



Lord Jesus, in Luke 6:27-38 you call us to a radical love, a love that transcends our natural inclinations and demands that we love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and be merciful as our Father is merciful. Grant us the grace to embrace this challenging call, that our love may be a true reflection of your own, a witness to your boundless mercy, and a source of transformation in the world. Amen.



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