
Scripture Reflection

“Love” is the essential word in today’s readings.

The second reading from the first letter of John tells us “God is love” (**1 Jn 4:8**) and proclaims that this love was revealed to us in that “God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him” (**1 Jn 4:9**).

Then, in the Gospel, Jesus says to His disciples: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you” (**Jn 15:9**). The Father’s love for Christ is the foundation for Jesus’ love for His disciples and the love that He asks of the disciples when he commands them: “love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (**Jn 15:12-13**).

Jesus continues, saying: “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain” (**Jn 15:16**).

By virtue of our Baptism, we too have been chosen. The Lord calls each of us by name. When we truly recognize God’s infinite love for us, and His sacrifice *For the Life of the World*, it is the source of our joy and hope and must shine through in our love for one another.

Each year, the *Annual Catholic Appeal* allows us to come together as a family in Christ to make His love present throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis and lead others to Him through life-giving ministries and programs. Our gifts become hope and healing for the most vulnerable and spread His love and mercy, bearing greater fruit than we can even imagine.

Please give to the *Appeal* <<date and place>> or visit aca.archstl.org to learn more about how you can continue to be Christ’s hands and feet and share His Love *For the Life of the World*. You can also Text-to-Give by texting “**ACA**” to **243725**.

Bulletin/Pulpit Announcement

Christ’s love and sacrifice *For the Life of the World* is the source of our hope and must shine through in our love for one another. The *Annual Catholic Appeal* is an opportunity to serve the Lord with gladness. Each year, our gifts make His love present throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis and lead others to Him through life-giving ministries and programs.

As we prepare to launch the *Appeal* follow-up efforts in our parish, please consider making a gift today. You can pick up your pledge card after Mass, make a gift online at aca.archstl.org or use Text-to-Give by texting “**ACA**” to **243725**.