

# From the Pastor



No matter how some people try to describe religion, our Christian belief is without the doubt about developing the virtue of love in our lives. We learned that God is love, that He proved His love in the history of mankind, and that He wants us to lead our lives in the example of His Son, Jesus Christ, who showed us the way of true love.

It is a fact that in the past, and even more today, love is the most confusing term, which shouldn't be. Mary Beth Bonacci in her book, *"Real Love"*, described two meanings for saying you "love". What do you mean when you say you love your parents? Hopefully that you care about them, love spending time with them, would help them in every humanly possible way, and would always want what's best for them. What do you mean when you say you love pizza? Can you care deeply for pizza or have a special relationship with it, or help it in every humanly possible way? No, hopefully, you mean that you enjoy eating pizza until you don't want anymore. When you're tired of it, you throw it away or forget about it.

When people today talk about loving each other, believe it or not, they can have either of those two meanings of love in mind. Some people when they say "I love you" are saying that they'll enjoy you until they don't, and think everyone feels the same way. If someone says they love you, ask them if they love you like they love pizza, or love you in a much deeper way.

We can always grow in our understanding of love. Let's not assume that we know enough about it. I don't. I learn more and more about love every day. Especially when it comes to being with people in difficult times they are having like illness, accident, trouble, failure or any life's trial.

St Theresa of Lisieux wrote: "Jesus flooded the darkness of my soul with torrents of light... Love filled my heart, I forgot myself, and henceforth I was happy." There are many great books and documents we can learn from. I would like to suggest this time reading two fine documents about true meaning of love written by pope Benedict XVI: the encyclical on charity, *"Deus Caritas Est"* (published on Christmas 2005), and, if it's not enough, try another one, *"Caritas in Veritate"* (published on June 29, 2009).

+ *Father Roger*