

Christians are called to live by the scriptures. Jesus called us to live the great commandment. "You must love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... You must love your neighbor as yourself. (Mt. 22: 37-40). This means that:

- We must love God deeply.
- Our love must be interpersonal, extending to near neighbors, relatives, families, friends.
- Our love must be personal. We must love ourselves to love others.
- Our love must be social. We must love not only our "near neighbors" who have names and faces, but also our sisters and brothers who are "distant neighbors."

Our expanding consciousness and Church teachings make it clear that every follower of Jesus must embrace the world and share in the work of justice.

- Through service, we imitate Jesus who said "I am in your midst as one who serves you" (Lk. 22:27).
- Through service, we obey Jesus who, having washed his disciples' feet, said "As I have done, so must you do" (Jn. 13:15).
- Through service, we actually encounter Jesus who identified himself with those in need: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty... a stranger... naked... ill... in prison" (Mt. 25: 3-46).

Service is the process that Jesus named as the distinguishing mark of his followers.