

For Love to Give Love

How sad, how tragically sad,
that we allow ourselves
to ruled and controlled by
our illusions and fears.
And so we live much of our lives
in a prison of falsity.
This is not God's plan
for any of us.
God wants us to know
true peace and freedom.

We were created in
the image of God,
which is to say
we were created
to mirror the love
of the Trinity
by giving ourselves away,
for life to give life,
for mercy to give mercy,
for compassion to give
compassion,
for peace to give peace,
for love to give love.

Because we do not know
our real self, our true nature,
we live in darkness and doubt.
Conflicts haunt us.
We feel threatened.
And so we build walls
around ourselves
for protection.

In the depths of our being
we feel isolated, alone, naked.
Joy is fleeting.
Bitterness grows
in our uncultivated garden
starving for sunlight.
The goodness and creativity
of God is unknown,
hidden, in part, by
our own brokenness,
our own weakness.

Only through humble eyes
can God be seen.
I am nothing;
God is everything.
But in my nothingness,
God gives me everything.

Humility helps
shatter illusions.
Humility is the truest form
of honesty.
It sees our weaknesses
and vulnerabilities.
Humility allows God
to transform our weaknesses
into strengths.

Humility is a pathway
to prayer.
Prayer is the doorway
to the heart,
the center of our being,
the place where we can
let go, let go of
pretense, pride, ego
and a host of things
blocking us from
the true source of life,
the true source of love, God.
In the innermost
chamber of the heart
we see the dissonance
between the Spirit of God
and our spirit;
it is here we struggle
to dissolve that dissonance.
In the safety of the heart
we can let go of fear and we can
risk change.
In the heart, conflict gives way
to harmony.
In the heart, what's mine
becomes God's.
In the heart,
humility becomes holiness.

God became vulnerable for us.
And God's vulnerability
is a supreme expression
of Divine Love.
A psalmist once said
God's love is better
than life itself.
More to the point:
God's love is life.
Without God, I am nothing,
have no life.
With God, I lack nothing,
have the fullness of life.
Love is life.
Jesus is a lover.

Love cannot be conditional.
Love cannot be purchased.
Love cannot be used for our gain
cannot be self-centered.

Love is liberating.
Love is self-emptying,
is to be given away.
Love is only known from within,
as an experience
that changes everything,
even changes bread and wine
into the very substance
of God.

Love is all powerful,
all merciful, all compassionate,
all forgiving, always giving.
The source of love is God
the creator and sustainer
of everything.
Love animates all life.
And through love
all life is connected.

Love does not throw stones.
Love tosses bouquets of
kindness.
Love does not
judge or condemn others.
Love only gives and shares,
everything, always.

Our incapacity to love
is rooted in pride
and our false notion
that everything must have
a tangible benefit
toward increasing
our status and security.
"What's in it for me?"
is not a question love asks.
Love seeks
no remuneration,
knows nothing about
the market economy,
or cost-benefit analysis.

Love is a gift to be freely given
and freely received.
We do not merit
nor can we earn
God's love.
Yet, in every moment,
in every place,

in every situation,
God's love is there
reaching out to us,
calling us by name.

But most of the time we are deaf,
do not hear the silent voice
of God.

The wordless voice of God
can only be heard in the heart.
God's heart speaks
to our hearts.

But our hearts
are a tangle of contradictions,
fragmented and overwhelmed
by disappointments, struggles,
worries and doubts;
in the noise and chaos
of our cluttered hearts
we can not hear God,
can not know God,
can not feel God's love.
Our hearts are broken,
wounded by a thousand
little cuts and bruises.

Jesus came
to heal our hearts.

- Through his sacred heart
the heart of God is revealed.

To contemplate and imitate
the Sacred Heart of Jesus
is to contemplate and imitate
the love of God.

Through Jesus' heart
God loves us
and shows us
how to relate
to the Divine
and to all of humanity.

Jesus is the heartbeat
of God.

The heart is the center
the core of our bodies, spirits
and souls.

The heart is the home
of our deepest thoughts,
our deepest desires,
our deepest longings.
It is in and through our hearts
that we come
to understand ourselves

and learn how to relate to
others.

The heart is
fundamental to
physical and spiritual life.

In the physical heart of Jesus
the spiritual heart of God
was incarnated and made flesh.
Jesus loves with a human heart,
a human heart that beats with
divine love.

Our human hearts need to be
transformed into sacred hearts,
divine hearts that beat with
human love.

We were created for relationship
Love is the doorway
to authentic, life-giving
relationships.