God’s love, what is it? “Help me to understand, God.”

In Isaiah 55: 8-9 we read, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” It is difficult to define God’s love. What does God’s love look like when it is received — its effect on us, its generosity? How did Jairus feel about his daughter when Jesus said, “Little girl, get up.” Can you imagine being the parent in the face of such unfathomable love and generosity? Remember the time when the woman was caught in adultery, ready to die. Jesus said, “Nor do I condemn you. You may go. But from now on avoid this sin.” Imagine her surprise. She received unearned love, God’s love that is JESUS!

The Church tells us this about God’s love: God’s love is present to us because the Father’s love for the Son is so great and the Son’s love for the Father is equally great that all this love is the person we call the Holy Spirit, God’s love. What does this love coming from the Holy Spirit personally do IN us? That is a lifelong journey with the person of the Holy Spirit.

When talking about the Holy Spirit, it’s helpful to look at who the apostles were and were not during the three years they spent with Jesus. In Luke 18, Jesus predicts His death and resurrection.

31 Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “Pay attention! We’re going up to Jerusalem. Everything written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled, 32 because he’ll be handed over to the unbelievers, and will be mocked, insulted, and spit on. 33 After they have whipped him, they’ll kill him, but on the third day he’ll rise again.” 34 But they didn’t understand any of this. What he said was hidden from them, and they didn’t know what he meant.

Perhaps the clearest sign of their lack of power to love is what happened on the last day before Jesus died. In the garden, he invited three of the Apostles to join him in prayer. He returned to them three times for support as he made the most selfless decision to die on the cross. Instead, they slept, never really understanding what Jesus was about to endure. They never helped him, and these were his closest friends. They were good men but lacked strength to love because they had not yet received the Holy Spirit. Jesus knew that this is how they would be. They and we don’t know how extravagant his love is for us —how completely dedicated he is to our lives. (After the Holy Spirit came into their hearts on Pentecost, Peter spoke of God’s love, Jesus, so clearly that he brought 3,000 to believe. The power given and received created the early Church.)

Maybe the question isn’t just what is God’s love, but who is God’s love? In John 1:14, we read this powerful Scripture, “The Word became flesh and made his
dwell among us, and we have seen his glory; the glory of an only Son coming from the Father, filled with enduring love.” It is the cross, the place of God’s generous, indescribable love. He agonized over his decision to give his life for us…a deep, deep agony. He offered his back to scourges that shredded his skin, exposed his bones as a whip made of lead balls and pieces of sheep bones tore his flesh to pieces. All for you. He accepted the 165 pound cross which he carried a half mile up a steep hill separating lower Jerusalem from upper Jerusalem with the cross going thump, thump, as it was dragged over many, many stairs. The path lined with jeering, hollering dissenters of his wonderful teachings. But up he went for you. Suddenly, there was his beloved Mother face to face with him in such deep sorrow. A mother’s love and prayer take over. Enter —Simon of Cyrene and Veronica to assist & to comfort.

They threw him down on the cross bar, took a spike-like nail, lined it up against the palm of his hand and sent the hammer crashing down sending the nails through his hands and feet. Immediate pain. But not a sound. Suffering silently for us. For three hours, he struggled to breathe as his weight pressed on his feet with nerves firing pain everywhere until his work was complete.

Thank you, Holy Spirit. Thank you, Holy Spirit...you have softened and cleansed our hearts. It is clear now. No mystery. Nothing vague or uncertain. God’s love is the life of Jesus sacrificed for our eternal destiny. God’s love is Jesus and able to be seen and known because the Holy Spirit prepares us to see him and love him deeply.

Jim Cahill spoke at the recent Life in the Spirit Day held in Columbia Heights, MN. Jim was baptized in the Holy Spirit in the ‘70s and since then has been sharing the fire of the Holy Spirit everywhere, do knocking looking for lost souls, and praying with people when he can. Jim and his wife Norma pray faithfully at Charismata and are members of the People of Praise Christian Community.

**FALL CONFERENCE WITH MARY HEALY**

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<th>2019 Fall Conference Registration</th>
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<td>Register today! Early bird rates until 10/15</td>
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<td>I CAN VOLUNTEER:_____ (Various areas need you!)</td>
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<td>Cost: $75 before October 15 * $50 - Seniors over 70 years, Religious, or Ordained * $25 Full-time Students * Ticket does not include meals.</td>
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**Resurrection Power: Proclaiming the Gospel with Signs & Wonders**

November 16  8:30–3
November 17  12:30—3

Mary Mother of the Church
3333 Cliff Road E.
Burnsville, MN 55337

Topics include:
- Jesus the Healer
- Walking in the Supernatural
- How to Pray for Healing
- Fan into Flame the Gift of God

**Spread the word. If you would like POSTERS, CALL THE CCRO at 763-571-5314.**

September 6 (Friday) **FIRST FRIDAY WITH THE FRANCISCANS**, 1289 LaFond Ave., St. Paul, MN. 7 pm. Adoration, Franciscan Crown Rosary, Compline and Benediction. Fellowship follows. Call 651-646-8586.

September 6 (Friday) **FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT OF PRAYER**, Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Golden Valley. 7—8:30 pm. Eucharistic Adoration, confession, praise & worship led by Alex Schindler. Fellowship follows. Call 763-544-0416.

September 6 –8 (Weekend) **HOLY SPIRIT RETREAT**, St. Pius X Catholic Church in Rochester. Given by Fr. Eduardo Gomez-Rivera. Don’t miss it! Contact lucyslight24@gmail.com.

September 10 (Tuesday) **PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT**, St. Peter’s in North St. Paul. 7 pm.

September 12 (Thursday) **PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT**, Church of St. Paul in Ham Lake. 7-8 pm in the Chapel.

September 13 (Friday) **CHARISMATA**, St. John the Baptist, 835 2nd Ave NW, New Brighton 55112. 7:30—9:30 pm. Praise & Worship, Adoration, Prayer Teams.

September 20 (Friday) **EMMAUS**, St. Mark’s in St. Paul. Intimate evening with the Lord. 7—8:30 pm. Eucharistic Adoration, confession, praise & worship. Fellowship follows. Call 651-645-5715.

### The Unbound: Freedom in Christ Conference

**September 27 & 28, 2019**
St. John Vianney Church & School in Fairmont, MN

Everyone is fighting an **invisible battle**: negative thoughts, secret sins and unhealthy relationships, destructive habits, idols and false identities, resentments and bitter wounds that never seem to heal. What if you could reach out and **touch God’s love, and be changed**? Unbound Ministry releases the power of Jesus into wounded hearts. This weekend will empower you to break the chains in your life, so that you can walk in the fullness of freedom.

**Sponsored by the Diocese of Winona-Rochester.** For more info and to register, visit: dowr.org and click on events or call 507-454-4643.
Charismata on Fridays is back!
Sept. 13 * Oct. 11 * Nov. 8 * Dec. 13
Come, Holy Spirit!

Women’s Retreat sponsored by the Archdiocese. September 28 8:30—3 at Epiphany in Coon Rapids
(Mass at 9 am with Bishop Cozzens) $40 includes lunch. To register, go to archspm.org/womensretreat or call 651-291-4411
Speakers, Nell O’Leary: Our Perfect Mother * Fr. Brian Park: Living a Liturgical Life * Dia Boyle: Healing the Culture through Friendship & Hospitality

Let us pray for all students returning to their school schedules and for all programs beginning again.

Charismatic Mass of Thanksgiving
Saturday, October 19
7:00 pm
Presider: Fr. Michael Becker
St. Alphonsus Catholic Church
7025 Halifax Ave N.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Praise and Worship will begin at 6:30. We have so much to be thankful for that we want to celebrate with Mass, Praise & Worship, and fellowship. We also want to pray for the upcoming conference. Mark your calendar!

We appreciate any donations that help support the work of the Holy Spirit in this Archdiocese. Thank you for your generosity!