



# The Women of Vis

## VISITATION CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2020  
LOVE

*To provide all generations of Visitation women with the opportunity for service, fellowship and spiritual growth within the Visitation community. To enhance and support the activities of other Visitation Community Outreach Ministries.*

## Becoming Love

By Cathy Zitnik

Being asked to write this February reflection on love felt like a God Wink/God Moment, because the ask came on the very same day that I finished reading Bob Goff's book about God's love entitled Everybody Always. I readily agreed because I was feeling God's love for all and was feeling open to share the love of Christ within me. And yet, at first blush, I thought to focus on Valentine's Day, the celebration of romantic love and of love shared by friends and family. I thought perhaps learning about St. Valentine would lead me to find insights to share with you. Although Christ's Divine Love was the reason I agreed to write this, and the obvious topic to address, I shied away from doing so.

Alas, thoughts of Ash Wednesday (February 26) herded me back to what my shepherd Jesus had intended for me to focus on all along as Ash Wednesday led me to think of Lenten preparation for Easter. Easter, our most sacred celebration of Christ's Divine Love for us. Father Norm Rotert preached, "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song." As such, Alleluia; we are called to live this Divine Love in all ways always.

Divine Love, Agape Love, begins with God's redemptive love for us. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life," John 3:16. Agape Love continues with the commandments, "...You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and will all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39.

Scripture tells us that God's Divine Love, the love of and for God, self and other, is rooted in forgiveness and redemption. The Catholic Dictionary states it "is the most distinctively Christian form of love. Used by Christ to describe the love among the persons of the Trinity, it is also the love he commanded his followers to have for one another. It is totally selfless love, which seeks not one's own advantage but which seeks only to benefit another." Another definition explains, "Agape is selfless love - the love that seeks the good of the other. I love not for what it does for me but because of the care for the other." Without naming it as Agape Love, Bob Goff challenges us to "become love" by "loving everybody, always!"

We sing, "Love one another, for love is of God. Love one another for God is love." The circular nature and the unconditional nature of the ecosystem of God's Divine Love is a holy mystery at the core of our faith. We receive love and so we give love; we give love and so we receive love. This is real and evident and unfathomable all at the same time. The call of discipleship is a call to love divinely with full and active participation. We are invited to enter in full-on because that is how Jesus loved and God loves. God's Agape Love is prayerful action, just as Jesus did for us, we must do for others. This action might be prayer only or prayer plus. As Bob Goff says, "Love Does." Loving like this isn't always comfortable or convenient but always right and just.

Imagine doing it; imagine loving everybody, always. Imagine becoming love. Isn't that what Jesus imagines? May you be blessed by the God of LOVE whose greatest desire is to be one with you. May you draw close and know the thrill of God's beating heart against your own. May this Lover God be a listening presence in every word and thought and experience of your existence. May the fire of passion of God's love for you move you to be a compassionate and loving presence to all you meet. May the God of Love be with you.

Sr. Maxine Shank, OP

# We love because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19



Connecting  
Exploring  
Creating

TOGETHER

**Come as you are, come when you can, bring a friend!**

No need to prep, no need to attend every session. Our only agenda when we gather is to connect with the world and one another as we create space to explore our faith together. We'd love to see you!

**Wednesdays + Tighe Hall + 9:15 - 10:30**  
**January 29TH, February 26TH,**  
**March 25TH, April 22, May 20TH**

**Childcare provided**

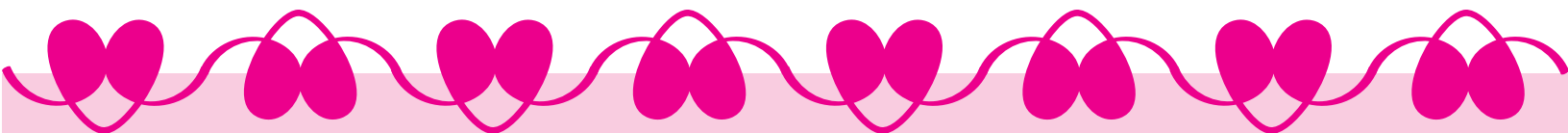
*RSVPs for kiddos help with planning, but is not required!*

Questions?  
You can reach out to:

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*Love recognizes no barriers. - Maya Angelou*



**Christ Renews His Parish Women's Retreat, March 7th-8th**



## WOV on Instagram

Follow us at **womenofvis** for inspiration for your day and information about upcoming events at Visitation.

## AT VISITATION CHURCH



### Daily Mass

6:45 am

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

8:15 am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday  
& Saturday

### Morning Prayer/Communion Service

6:45 am on Wednesday

8:15 am on Thursday

### Confession

3:00 pm on Saturday

### Rosary for the sick of our Parish

9:00 pm on Thursday in  
the St. Joseph's Chapel

*If you have people you'd like to add to  
the list of those prayed for each week,  
please email names to:*

womenofvisitation@gmail.com

### Yoga

8:30 am

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

7-9 pm

Thursdays, in the Bride's Room

# MARDI GRAS BUNKO



*Join Women of Visitation  
Monday, February 24th  
in Tighe Hall*

*6:30 pm dinner/7:00 pm bunko*

No reservation required - you can pay at the door.  
\$10 for WOV members & \$15 for guests

## get involved

If you would like to get more involved in Women of Vis, we would love to hear from you! Our events and ministries are powered by the efforts of amazing women in our community! All ages and all levels of time commitment are valued. Please reach out to us at:  
womenofvisitation@gmail.com

WOV Board Members 2019/2020

President: Louise Meyers  
Vice President: Julie Rose  
Past President: Rebecca Bowen  
Corresponding Secretary/Santa Painting: Julie Kivisto  
Recording Secretary: Barbara Mashburn  
Treasurer: Teresa Olsen  
Baskets of Joy: Sara Davis & Jenn Olson  
Blood Drive: Kristi Calkins & Maureen Wiebe  
Communications: Rebecca Bowen/Audrey Burns  
Membership: Kim Foster & Bonnie Witt  
Prayer Shawl: Kim Foster  
Feast of the Visitation: Nealey Grosdidier  
Bunko Evenings: Betsy O'Brien & Shari Kearns  
Funeral Meals: Kathy Diamond  
Giving Fund/Hospitality: Tatia Batz  
Open House: Cathy Colburn  
Rosary Making: Mara Hodes  
Prayer Leader: Sue Bloemer  
At-Large Member: Mary Catherine Newman