

“Do you love me?”

The Lord wants to have a relationship with each and every one of us. At its foundation, our connection to Jesus Christ is one of love.

A common phrase used by many individuals is “I am not religious but rather spiritual.” I have realized that over time, for most people, it is a quick way to explain that they don’t attend Mass very often, but they do think of God. But there is a movement, a kind of spiritual movement of spirituality that is separated from the faith community and it is people who follow a guru. They search out ways to find meaning in their lives, meaning for the things happening around them and they do that by following the teachings of people they consider to be wise. This present-day movement of spirituality is nothing new. It is not something that has come upon us in the last little while; it has always been with us because people have always wondered about the mystery of who they are: the mystery of life, the mystery of the world and the answers, yet many are looking in all the wrong places. God is able to work through that and often people are led to the true faith, sometimes through many directions. Even the magi searched the stars, yet this questioning in their hearts and minds was not enough. It was only when they encountered the revelation of God, that they found the direction they should take. Their encounter with the infant messiah so changed their lives that they went home by a different road, no longer seeking the guidance of stars but instead encountered the true and living God and they now they had meaning in their lives. This is also true for us. At Mass, we encounter God through the Word of God that is proclaimed in the Eucharist that we share. We encounter the living Lord, who is light from light, God from God, a light for all nations and people. The true God desires to call us to Himself, in a relationship with Him, because our spiritual life is not about seeking meaning, seeking out God, **but our spiritual life at its core is being found by God because it is God who seeks us.** It is not us that seek God but rather, like the Shepherd who looks for the lost sheep, it is God who seeks us. This profound relationship brings us unquenchable life and gives our lives new purpose and meaning.

Jesus Christ alone, is the answer to every question that fills the human heart; He who brings us light and leads us to the Father. This is true love.

*“Faith is above all a personal, intimate encounter with Jesus, and to experience his closeness, his friendship, his **love**; only in this way does one learn to know him ever more, and **to love and follow him ever more.** May this happen to each one of us.”*

Pope Benedict XVI

By Kandy Harkin, School Chaplaincy Leader, St. Ignatius of Loyola CSS

