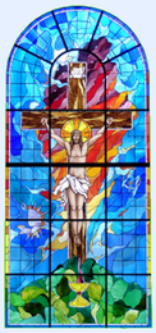

Church of the Holy Cross

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware
302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland
410 482 7687
iccmarydel.org

Immaculate Conception

October 25, 2026 — **30th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

holy cross

Parish Office Hours
School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thrusday, 9 am-1 pm

Schools Office Hours
School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

Daily Mass Schedule
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am
Wednesday – 8:15 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

Confession Schedule
Saturday, 8:30 am—10:00 am,
Fridaysin Lent, 5:30pm

Adoration Chapel Hours
Daily, 5am—9pm

icc

Parish Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-1 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

Sunday Mass Schedule
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

Daily Mass Schedule
Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

Holy Day Schedule (HC and ICC)
Mary, Mother of God, January 1
Assumption, August 15
All Saints' Day, November 1
Immaculate Conception, December 8
Christmas, December 25

Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near

sacraments

Receiving the Sacraments

The seven Sacraments of the Church were instituted by Christ to confer grace.

Sacrament of Baptism. Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

Sacrament of Confirmation. Young people in our parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Marriage. Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

Anointing of the Sick. For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

happenings

Join Us for a Dine to Donate Night!

Come enjoy great food while supporting a great cause! Join us at Texas Roadhouse for a special evening benefiting Holy Cross Church's Youth Ministry. Bring your family and friends, share a delicious meal, and help make a difference in our community.
We hope to see you there! Thank you for your support!

stewardship

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending October 18, 2026

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	$25,553.24
Second	$1,134.00

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending October 18, 2026

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	$4,775.00
Second	$530.00

Thank you to all advertisers in our bulletin.
We appreciate your support!

If you know of someone who would like to advertise in the bulletin, please contact Diocesan Publications at 800-233-8200.

A Word from our Pastor…

Dear Parishioners,

In my first column as Pastor, I shared how thrilled I am to be here and to welcome new parishioners to our Parish. Choosing a Parish community is a significant step in your spiritual journey, and we are blessed that you have chosen to walk with us.

This week our Gospel brings us to a foundational passage in scripture: Matthew 22:34-40. In this Gospel, a scholar of the law tests Jesus by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the g*reatest?" Jesus responds with elegant and challenging simplicity: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... and a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself*."

This passage gives us the perfect blueprint for what it means to belong to our collaborative Parish community.

1. Loving God Completely (The Vertical Dimension)
Our primary anchor is the love of God. At Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception, we express this love together through the Holy Mass, personal prayer, and the Sacraments. Loving God with all our mind and soul means being willing to grow in our faith, step out of our comfort zones, and make Him the center of our busy lives.

2. Loving Our Neighbor Authentically (The Horizontal Dimension)
Jesus reminds us that love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable. They are two sides of the same coin. A Parish is not just a building where we fulfill an obligation; it is a living family where we carry one another's burdens. For our new parishioners, this means you are not just a face in the pew—you are a vital part of our community. For our established Parishioners, it means reaching out, welcoming the stranger, and ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors experiences Christ-like hospitality.

As we move forward together, let these two great commandments drive everything we do. Let us love God deeply in our prayer and love one another generously in our service.

Know of my continued prayers for you and your families. Please do not hesitate to introduce yourself to me after Mass.

A special thank you to my brother priests: Fr. Carroll who served as our Administrator in my absence. Fr. Padilla, Fr. John and Fr. Hynes who faithfully covered many Masses and while I was deployed, I am grateful for their priestly fraternity and look forward to ministering alongside them to build up the Kingdom of God.

May God bless you,

Rev. Anthony Giamello, KHS

Monday
October 26
Weekday
Eph 4:32—5:8
Lk 13:10–17

Tuesday
October 27
Weekday
Eph 5:21–33
Lk 13:18–21

Wednesday
October 28
Sts. Simon and
Jude, Apostles
Eph 2:19–22
Lk 6:12–16

Thursday
October 29
Weekday
Eph 6:10–20
Lk 13:31–35

Friday
October 30
Weekday
Phil 1:1–11
Lk 14:1–6

Saturday
October 31
Weekday
Phil 1:18b–26
Lk 14:1, 7–11

Sunday
November 1
All Saints
Rv 7:2–4, 9–14
1 Jn 3:1–3
Mt 5:1–12a

HC & ICC Clergy

Rev. Anthony Giamello	Pastor
Rev. John Enemuo	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Rommel Padilla	Parochial Vicar
Rev. John Hynes	In Residence

HC Clergy

Mr. Philip Belt	Deacon
Mr. John Harvey	Deacon
Mr. Richard Kosior	Deacon
Mr. Robert McMullen	Deacon
Mr. Vincent Pisano	Deacon

HC Staff

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Lilie Ramos	Receptionist, ext. 110
Vivian Alvarado	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Darcee Impagliazzo	Business Manager, ext. 119
Rev. Padilla	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. I15
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Ashlyn Baynocky	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger	Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

Mailing Address

Church of the Holy Cross
631 S. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

ICC Staff

Parish Office	410 482 7687
Marilyn Dixon	Office Manager
Alicia Poppiti	DRE Religious Ed.
Susan Venezia	Bookkeeper
Rev. Padilla	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

Mailing Address

Immaculate Conception Church
P. O. Box 399
Marydel, MD 21649-0399

Holy Cross School

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8
302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org/school

Mallory O'Mara — Principal, ext. 111

Mailing Address

Holy Cross School
631 S. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

Samaritan's Food Pantry

The food pantry is preparing to provide Thanksgiving meals to approximately 200 families in the Dover area. For those meals, cranberry sauce, corn muffin mix, brownie mix and pickles are needed. In addition, for weekly food distribution, the following items are urgently needed: hamburger helper, peanut butter (18 oz.), Manwich, and Progresso or Campbell's chunky soup. Thank you for your kindness to your neighbors in need.

Adoration Chapel

"A Holy Hour before the blessed sacrament is worth more than a thousand years of human glory." ST. PADRE PIO

You don't need a time if you cannot make a commitment. Please feel free to come in and sit with our Lord, when you can! Contact JOHN MURPHY 302-233-1779, text, or email jkm2015@verizon.net

Times Available are:

Sunday	6-7am	7-8am	5-6pm	6-7pm	8-9pm
Tuesday	6-7am	3-4pm			
Thursday	6-7am	4-5pm	8-9pm		
Friday	8-9am				
Saturday	6-7am	8-9am	12-1pm	6-7pm	7-8pm 8-9pm

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: On October 25th after all Masses the Hispanic Community will be having a food sale to raise funds for the Feast Celebration of our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th. Please stop by after Mass to support, the food booth is setup outside Infront of the rectory.

Annual Appeal Update:

2026 ANNUAL FAITH & CHARITY CATHOLIC APPEAL

Church of the Holy Cross
Goal: $235,000.00
Pledges Received: $199,990.05 (85.10%)

Immaculate Conception (Marydel)
Goal: $25,625.00
Pledges Received: $25,654.41 (100.11%)

The Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal continues to experience strong support throughout our Diocese. We are grateful to all who have already made a gift or pledge to this year's Appeal.

If you have pledged, please remember that fulfilling your commitment helps provide essential funding for ministries that serve those in need.

If you have not yet participated, there is still time. Every gift, regardless of size, makes a difference. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Welcome New Parishioners

We extend a warm welcome to our newly registered members:

- David Spangler
- Evelyn Vitek

Recently Deceased

Our prayers and condolences to the families who have recently lost a loved one:

- Elena Lucia Velasquez-Perez
- Edward Dennis MacZynski
- James Thomas Eliff, Jr.

Newly Baptized

Congratulations to our newly baptized members:

- Lorenzo Pazmino-Danner

Mass Intention October/November

26 MONDAY
HC 8:00 am Pross & Ives Families

27 TUEDAY
HC 8:00 am Brendan Ryan

28 WEDNESDAY
HC 8:15 am Katherine Luke

29 THURSDAY
HC 8:00 am James & June Clacher

30 FRIDAY
HC 8:00 am David Lee

31 SATURDAY
HC 8:00 am John Normoyle
HC 5:00 pm Raymond Cola

1 SUNDAY
HC 7:30 am Maureen Williams
ICC 8:30 am Marian Delp
HC 9:30 am Fred Matthews
ICC 11:00 am Magdelena Petri
HC 11:30 am Anne Loffreda
ICC 1:30 pm For The People

Sanctuary Candle in Church Oct 25-31 is for the intention of parishioners from Holy Cross.

Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel Oct 31-31 is for the intention of Filomena & Ida Ranieri, donated by Carolina Ranieri.

Memorials: Please know that Sanctuary Candles, Altar flowers and Mass intentions are available if you would like to donate in Memory or Honor of someone. Just call or stop by the parish office for more information.

Become a registered parishioner today! We welcome all visitors and newcomers to our Parish. If you wish to register please stop by the Parish Office

faith in action

Oct 31/1, 2026

	EMHC		SERVERS
5:00 PM	M. Miller G. Murphy	B. Richards G. Richards	N. Klaus Z. Klaus
			LECTORS
			D. Dixon R. Fanelli
7:30 AM	D. Lester M. Thompson	W. Thomas C. Brown	L. Thomas G. Thomas
			LECTORS
			M. Jacobs
9:30 AM	F. Hanlin K. Kelly	S. Lascano V. Pepper	W. Shuron M. Willoughby
			LECTORS
			R. Alderman J. Amoako
11:30 AM	P. Ramirez A. Luna	T. Hernandez	K. Geronimo S. Geronimo
			LECTORS
			G. Hernandez M. Mendoza

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM	J. Moore	
		LECTORS
		B. Thompson
11:00 AM	F. Cristiano	
		LECTORS
		L. Soule

If you are interested in becoming a Lector, Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or an Altar Server, please all the Parish Office at Holy Cross. Leave your name and contact information.

As always, we can use more volunteers to become ministers to the sick and homebound. This ministry is growing daily and they so appreciate receiving Our Lord especially since they can't come to Mass. Sign up at the office if you are interested in learning more about this ministry.

this & that

MARRIED COUPLES
"Live your best life in love" in Fall 2026: Why not give yourselves some time together by making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? The next Delaware Marriage Encounter Weekend will be: **November 6th - 8th at Rehoboth Beach**. For more information visit: https://wwme-delmar.org/applyWeekend.php

Little Reflection Books, Advent, Lent And Easter Seasons

3 books for the one price of $10. Please give money, name and phone number to Holy Cross Parish Office, or to Marilyn Dixon at Immaculate Conception. All orders need to be in by November 6.

Attention Parishioners!!
In honor of All Souls' Day on Monday, November 2nd we will have a 7pm Mass here at Holy Cross to Commemorate All the Faithful Departed.

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PARROQUIA DE LA SANTA CRUZ

En nombre de Dios padre celestial me presento, mi nombre es Yorly Escalante. Soy una graduada de la escuela Holy Cross School y mamá de tres hijos. Es una bendición poder servir como coordinadora del ministerio hispano de la escuela Holy Cross High School. Participó en la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción en Mardel, MD.

Si tu tienes un hijo o hija en el grado 8 de la escuela secundaria te invito a conocer la escuela Holy Cross High School ubicada en la 2319 S. DuPont Hwy Dover, Delaware 19901, es una escuela que está centrada en la fe católica, de grados 9 a 12! Para más información comunicarse directo a la escuela al 302-213-1720 o por mi correo electrónico yescalante@hchs.org. Yo te ayudaré con cualquier pregunta que tú tengas. Jesucristo, María Santísima nos acompaña siempre.

Ms. Yorly Escalante

Libritos de Reflexión para los tiempos de Adviento, Cuaresma y Pascua: 3 libros por el precio de $10. Por favor, entregue el dinero, su nombre y número de teléfono en la oficina de la Parroquia Holy Cross o a Marilyn Dixon en Inmaculada Concepción. La fecha límite para realizar todos los pedidos es el 6 de Noviembre.

Little Books
of the Diocese of Saginaw, Inc.

Jesús te Invita a que pases una hora con El: Capilla de Adoración Eucarística: «Ven y pase una hora con Jesús en el Santísimo Sacramento. Para anotarse llame a la oficina parroquial.

La Virgen Peregrina: La Virgen Peregrina está visitando casas, si usted desea que la imagen de la virgen peregrina visite su casa por una semana, hable con nuestra hermana Marta Espinosa.

Conviértete en feligrés registrado hoy! Damos la bienvenida a todos los visitantes y recién llegados a nuestra parroquia. Si desea registrarse, por favor pase por la Oficina Parroquial.

Memoriales: Por favor, tengan en cuenta que velas del Santuario, flores del altar y las intenciones de la misa están disponibles si deseas donar en memoria o honor a alguien. Solo llama o pása por la oficina parroquial para más información.

Las clases de educación religiosa se imparten en la Escuela Primaria Holy Cross Para más información comuníquese con: Sra. Tammy Korosec Coordinadora de Educación Religiosa email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org o llame al 302-674-5787 ext 122

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PARROQUIA DE LA INMACULADA CONCEPCION- MARYDEL

- **Todos están invitados** todos los Jueves a la Santa Misa a las 6pm. A las 7pm Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento y Confesiones.

- **Conviértete en feligrés registrado hoy!** Damos la bienvenida a todos los visitantes y recién llegados a nuestra parroquia. Si desea registrarse, por favor pase por la Oficina Parroquial.

Religious Ed at Holy Cross

Classes have started! But it isn't too late to register and get your students back on their faith journey! For more information on how to register go to holycrossdover.org or call Tammy Korosec at (302) 674-5787 X 122 or email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

Adult Religious Education Classes

The Bible Timeline
With Deacon Bob

Classes on Tuesday at either 9am or 7pm in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Parish Hall. Class is free/$40 workbook optional.

Class began September 8 th but you are welcome join anytime it will run until May 2027.

If you have any questions or would like to order the workbook set, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

Youth Ministry

Registration for Confirmation Preparation 2027: May be found on the church website under Confirmation 2027

Have you been thinking about becoming Catholic? Are you interested inlearning more about the Catholic faith? Have you received some, but not all, of the Sacraments Initiation? If so, you are invited to explore the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). OCIA is the process through which adults learn about the Catholic faith and prepare to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. Classes meet every Sunday, 1:00pm-3:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room in the Parish Office, Building C, Early Learning Center, 2nd floor (back by the playground). Walk-in's are welcome! For further information, contact Tammy Korosec, Coordinator of Religious Education at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org, or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

Religious Education at ICC

SRE:

Religious Education- In need of persons with a desire to broaden your faith while teaching others the Catholic faith. Call Alicia Poppiti 410-482-8939 to inquire. Catechists, assistants, substitutes, confirmation and aids are needed for the 2026-2027 school year.

We have classes from September -May. Training and formation provided. Please decern whether this is your way of giving back to the Church community. Any questions, please feel free to contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 or dre@iccmarydel.org

Immaculate Conception:

Sacraments:
Session #2 is on Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30pm in Hall. Please be prompt.
Session #3 is, Tuesday, November 3rd at 6:30pm in the Hall.

Confirmation: Classes began on Sunday, October 11th.
Session#2 is on Sunday, November15th, these sessions are not optional.

OCIA is ayearlong process which leads an adult person toward Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation or full communion with the Catholic Church. Interested individuals seeking to enter the Church or individuals interested in serving on a team of individuals should contact **Alicia Poppiti, DRE at 410-482-8939 or dre@iccmarydel.org**

This week, we're excited to share a glimpse into life at Holy Cross through the eyes of Mrs. Susan Cutrona, our second grade teacher! From school-wide celebrations to the wonderful learning taking place in our classrooms, there is always something exciting happening at Holy Cross.

Our week began with hearing screenings for our kindergarten, second, fourth, and seventh grade students on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, our school community gathered in the Parish Hall to officially welcome Father Giamello to Holy Cross! Students had the opportunity to ask him questions and get to know him better. We prayed for God to bless and guide him as he begins this new journey with our parish and school community. We also presented him with a spiritual bouquet of prayers and some Crusader gear to help him show his school spirit. We are so happy to welcome him to our Holy Cross family!

Wednesday also brought prospective families to our school for tours. They experienced firsthand the faith-filled learning environment that makes Holy Cross so special. We hope they will choose to become part of our school family!

On Thursday, our school band and chorus visited the Biggs Museum, where they had the exciting opportunity to meet the lead singer of a rock band! He shared his personal story and the experiences that shaped his journey as a singer and songwriter. His story was an inspiration to our own budding artists!

Our second graders have been busy learning, exploring, and growing in faith! In Language Arts, we explored informational texts and learned about the features that help readers find important information. We then put our knowledge to work by writing informational pieces about bats. If you want to learn about bats, just ask one of our second graders. They are becoming quite the experts!

In Math, we are strengthening our understanding of place value to 100 and learning how to use it to solve problems. In Science, we are exploring solids, liquids, and gases. Our curious students are eager to ask questions and discover more about the world around them.

In Religion, we are preparing for the special year ahead as our second graders get ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. They are already looking forward to these important milestones in their faith journeys! We have begun reviewing the Ten Commandments and discussing how God calls us to live as His children. Please keep our second graders in your prayers as they grow in faith and learn to be examples of God's love to others.

Next week promises even more excitement! We are looking forward to Halloween fun and celebrating our students' accomplishments as we welcome new members into the National Junior Honor Society. We are proud of our students' hard work and dedication!

Thank you for your continued support of Holy Cross. May God abundantly bless you and your family as we continue to learn, grow, and walk together in faith.

Many blessings,

Mrs. Susan Cutrona, 2A Teacher

Mrs. Mallory O'Mara, Principal

El Evangelio de hoy nos recuerda que toda la Ley divina se resume en el amor a Dios y al prójimo. El evangelista Mateo, cuenta que algunos fariseos se pusieron de acuerdo para poner a Jesús a una prueba. Uno de ellos, un doctor de la Ley le dirigió esta pregunta: ¿Maestro, en la Ley cual es el gran mandamiento?. Jesús citando el Libro del Deuteronomio respondió: "Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, con toda tu alma y con toda tu mente. Este es el grande y primer mandamiento. Y podría haberse detenido aquí. En cambio Jesús añade algo que no había sido solicitado por el doctor de la ley: Dice de hecho: 'El segundo, después, es similar a este: Amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo'. Tampoco este segundo mandamiento es inventado por Jesús, pero lo toma del Libro del Levítico. La novedad consiste justamente en poner juntos estos dos mandamientos "el amor de Dios y el amor por el prójimo" revelando que estos son inseparables y complementarios, son dos caras de una misma medalla. No se puede amar a Dios sin amar al prójimo, y no se puede amar al prójimo sin amar a Dios.

Creo que hoy muchos cristianos –o que se dicen cristianos– cometen el grandísimo error de disociar su fe y su comportamiento: afirman creer y amar a Dios, pero luego no hacen nada para probar su fe y su amor a Él. En el evangelio de hoy vemos a uno de los fariseos que se acerca a nuestro Señor para preguntarle cuál es el primer mandamiento; y Jesucristo le responde sin vacilar: "Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, con toda tu alma y con todas tus fuerzas". Ésta era la fórmula más sagrada y solemne para un israelita y constituía como el "corazón" de toda la Ley. La llamaban el "shemá" y todo judío piadoso lo conocía de memoria. Al igual que nosotros, los cristianos, aprendimos de memoria desde niños el primer mandamiento de la ley de Dios. Hemos oído miles de veces y tenemos archisabido que "el primer mandamiento es amar a Dios sobre todas las cosas", y pensamos que de verdad lo amamos, aunque nuestras obras desdigan lo que afirman nuestras palabras. Pero el amor hay que demostrarlo más con nuestros comportamientos que con buenos deseos o sentimientos. "Obras son amores, reza el refrán popular, que no buenas razones". ¿Qué pensaríamos nosotros de cualquier persona, podrías ser también tú mismo, que dijera amar mucho a sus padres o a sus abuelos, pero que nunca fuera a visitarlos a su casa dizque porque "no tiene tiempo", porque viven muy lejos, o simplemente porque "no le nace"? ¿Verdad que eso nunca sucede en la vida real? Sería inconcebible, pues el amor nos lleva a estar cerca de los seres a quienes amamos. Y entonces, ¿por qué con Dios nos comportamos de esa manera? Decimos que lo amamos, pero no estamos dispuestos a visitarlo ni siquiera media hora cada semana. ¿Cada semana? ¡Ojalá fuera al menos cada semana! Y en ocasiones ni nos acordamos de Él a lo largo del día, al menos que "nos urja" pedirle algún favor. Es que somos a veces demasiado interesados. A este primer mandamiento, nuestro Señor añade otro: "Amar al prójimo como a uno mismo". Es el mandamiento de la caridad, que es igual de importante que el primero. Es más, "quien dice amar a Dios a quien no ve, pero no ama a su hermano a quien ve, es un mentiroso", nos dice san Juan. Y el mismo Cristo afirma que "de estos dos mandamientos penden toda la Ley y los profetas". O sea que aquí se halla resumida toda la revelación bíblica. Éste fue el "mandamiento nuevo" que Él vino a traernos; éste es el núcleo del Evangelio y la esencia del cristianismo. Quien no vive el mandato de la caridad, simplemente no puede llamarse cristiano.

El Teólogo Cardenal Raniero Cantalamessa afirma: la caridad debe ser "sin fingimiento", esto es, sincera (literalmente "sin hipocresía", Rm 12,9); se debe amar "con corazón puro" (1P 1,22). Se puede de hecho hacer la caridad y la limosna por muchos motivos que nada tienen que ver con el amor: para adornarse, para pasar por benefactores, para ganarse el paraíso, hasta por remordimiento de conciencia. Si encuentras a un pobre hambriento y tiritando de frío, decía Santiago, ¿de qué le sirve si le dices: "¡Pobrecillo, ve, caliéntate, come algo!", pero no le das nada de lo que necesita? "Hijos", añade San Juan, "no amemos de palabra ni de boca, sino con obras y según la verdad" (1 Jn 3,18). No se trata por lo tanto de devaluar las obras exteriores de caridad, sino hacer que éstas tengan el fundamento en un genuino sentimiento de amor y de benevolencia.

Sinceramente,

Fr. Padilla