

If we do not know love - WE DO NOT KNOW GOD!

It matters nothing that we have the faith to remove mountains!

It matters nothing that we have the hope to prophesy and
examine all mysteries!

It matters nothing that we have sold all and given all to the poor!

If we do not know love - WE DO NOT KNOW GOD!

It is love and love alone that enkindles faith and hope into blazing fires!

If we do not know love - WE DO NOT KNOW GOD!

It is as simple as that!

*And if we do not know God,
then wherein do our commitments lie?*

In every appearance of our Blessed Mother, she stressed the need for penance, reparation, and prayer - prayer for sinners. Many of us hasten to fulfill what she asks of us. Yet, somehow, something of a painful ache continues to remain in our bosoms. Why? Perhaps we have not noticed that in spite of our fulfillment of the things asked of us, we continue to allow the cares and the business of everyday living to smother the words of the Queen of Heaven. The care of the eternal world of Eternity gives way to the fadeaway world of here and now. Too many well-intentioned people, failing to grasp the total importance of a proper disposition, give up their bodies to be burned by the various causes and promotions of everyday modern living. Yet, no involvement in human-interest activities seems able to totally quiet the tiny ache which continues to throb in their bosoms. In all of her appearances, our Blessed Mother did indeed request certain specific "human interest" occupations, but after a careful look, one cannot but see the underlying and fundamental presence of that SOMETHING which gives life and meaning to whatever we do: **LOVE – LOVE OF GOD!**

Saint Paul uses the word "Charity". In every event, LOVE OF GOD gives the proper and best formation to the love we must have for our neighbor. If this is lacking, should we even "give our bodies up to be burned", it will all be for nothing, and all that will remain of our best efforts will be charred bodies.

Therefore it is not through the hardness of the penitential works that we perform, nor in the prayers we say, nor in the vigils we keep, that our worth is brought to the attention of God. God is not interested in our ability to perform penitential and difficult things. God is interested ONLY in the LOVE He finds in our hearts - the love that prompts - the intention that disposes us - to the blessed works of penance and prayer we offer in reparation for the sins of Mankind and the salvation of our souls! □