



# ARTICLE 1

## WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

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Hello Family! We are going to take a deep look into the mission and purpose of our family as a church. The first two articles will focus on what our mission is to our church family and the community around us. Once we have a good handle on what our mission is, the following articles will look at our purpose as a family. What are the things we do to fulfill our mission? When I hear the word mission, I think of Matthew 28: 19 which talks about going and making disciples of all the world. That is our mission. It is what Jesus calls us to do as a family! But what does that look like and how do we live that out in our lives. To look at that mission, we must understand what a disciple is. A disciple is a follower of a teacher, leader or philosopher. So, someone who desires in their lives to be like Jesus is a disciple of Jesus. It means spending time with Him, being in his presence. In John 1: 38, Jesus asks two disciples what they are seeking, and their response is where are you staying. That seems like an odd response. You would think they were going to ask some deep theological question. But they know that to follow Jesus means to spend time with Him. If we look at all of this, we can learn two things about our mission. First it is to spend time with Him and then show others what it means to spend time with Him. Let's take that idea and turn it into a mission statement. Our mission is to introduce people to Jesus and together fully follow Him. Why is this our mission? So people can learn and see what love truly is in their lives. A love that entered this world and died on a cross. A love that left the glory of heaven to come to earth and die for our sins and open the gates of heaven for you! A love like that deserves a relationship, a love that deserves to be shared with others. This is our mission, it is one of love. It is like the Foreigner song "I want to know what love is". We should be a family, a place where people can come and experience love. A love that is unconditional and amazing through interaction with our family and with our Lord!

Our mission is to introduce people to that love, to Jesus. This is at the heart of our new logo. The yellow circles remind us of the Eucharist that give us strength and helps us find our way. The Celtic trinity symbol in the middle reminds us of God's tri-fold love for us that binds us together and finally the ring reminds us that our family is not just our church family but the community we live in! The beginning of our mission statement helps us to see that not only do we need to introduce people to Jesus but we need to know Him ourselves. We call on our Church family to grow closer to Jesus and to share that relationship with others. In my next article, I will show what it means to fully follow Him!

Until then ask yourselves these questions:

- What can I do to grow closer to Christ?
- Why is it important for me to have a relationship with Him?
- What does Love look like to me and what role does Christ play in that image?
- How do I share the friendship I have with Christ with others?
- How much time am I spending in prayer?

### NEXT ARTICLE: FULLY FOLLOWING HIM!

'I love You, O my God, and my only desire is to love You until the last breath of my life. I love You, O my infinitely lovable God, and I would rather die loving You, than live without loving You. I love You, Lord and the only grace I ask is to love You eternally... . My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love You, I want my heart to repeat it to You as often as I draw breath.'

- Saint John Vianney.

*Know that you are in my prayers as I hope that I am in yours.*

*Peace in Him, Fr Don Bender, Pastor*