

Once upon a time a farm boy did very well in school and was accepted at a major university. But his family was poor and could hardly afford the cost. So his parents took out a loan; his father and mother took second jobs. They sacrificed for years that he might have the very best education.

The young man realized what his parents had done for him, and the love they had for him to make such sacrifices. On graduation day he told them, "I realize the sacrifices you made out of love for me. I am going to work hard and be successful and I will pay you back. His dad said, "Son, the kind of love we have for you can never be paid back. It can only be passed on."

For people today, the strongest proof that Christ is truly risen is not found in any book but in how those who claim to be his followers are living. "As I have loved you, so you should love one another." It's still the same story today, a fight for love and glory, a case of do or die, the world will always need lovers. Virginia is for lovers, after all.

"This is how all will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." It was the final night Jesus was to spend with his disciples, prior to his arrest and crucifixion. These were his last words, his last will and testament, as it were, to them. It was obvious in Jesus' message, what he gave to them, can't be paid back - only passed on by those of us who succeed them.

If anything brings people to Jesus it will begin with loving Christians. The shadow side to this truth is that if anything keeps people from Jesus, it will be us Christians as well, who fail to love, who fail to pass it on.

(From Give Us This Day): A man came to Mother's Teresa's place telling her that a Hindu family with eight children had not eaten for a long time. So Mother Teresa took some rice to them. "When I arrived at their house, I could see the hunger in the children's eyes. Their eyes were shining with hunger."

She gave the rice to their mother, who divided it into two and then left. After returning Mother asked where she had gone. She told her that her neighbors were hungry, so she gave them some rice. It was a Muslim family. She passed on what was given, for she could never pay it back.

Mother Teresa closed, saying: "Love, to be true, has to hurt, and this woman who was hungry-she knew that her neighbor was also hungry...Today God loves the world through you and me. Are we that love and that compassion?"

God proves that Christ loves us-that he has come to be his Father's compassion. Today God is loving the world through you and me and through those who are his love and compassion in the world."

We pray these children (baptism) will one day pass on what was given to them this day.