

We come to the end of the school year and we may find ourselves a little worse for the wear. Our baptismal call to continue in Christ's footsteps can find us a little depleted. To love as Christ loves can be demanding on our time and energy. Thankfully, we are able to be in an intimate relationship with Him, for how else could we do what we do in our schools? We are in a privileged position in the education system: we walk with our students and their families and witness to all the different circumstances they are facing and attempting to overcome. Our students and their families look to us for guidance and leadership to help them in all the ways we can. Sometimes, we are sharing in their joy, and sometimes we are helping carry their despair, their grief, their anxiety over things beyond their control and ours. Considering our theological theme, to love as Jesus loves is no light or easy task. To love others the way Jesus loves demands that we have an internal strength to be with others, experiencing the many emotions and reactions they are going through and remaining calm with a faith-filled peace that Christ has promised to be ours and which we share with them.



I remember when I was a child coming home from school and having my grandmother greet me at the door. She lived with us since before I was born so in a way, she was another parent loving me through my childhood. On rainy, cold days she would be waiting for me at the door and on the stove would be warm, homemade applesauce which I would gladly eat to warm myself up. She anticipated that I would be cold and would need something warm to take the chill out from the inside. When Jesus asks us if love Him, He is asking us to anticipate others' needs and show them the same hospitality He showed to others in His earthly life, regardless of who they were or from whence they came. To love Jesus is to love others plain and simple. Yet, to answer His question puts us on the spot. Sometimes we do not want to love others because we know what it demands of us. Yet, for those of us working in the education system, we keep going; the path is made by walking, as an African proverb says. Loving in this way for ten months for other peoples' children and their families can take its toll on us. In this season of June, when we are cleaning our classrooms, decluttering our offices and our filing cabinets, let us also declutter our hearts from the effects of caring for others. Let us place all this excess worry and stress into God's "in" box and embrace the pace of the next two months where we can go to the door where Jesus is waiting for us to fuel us with His warmth and goodness so we can start this all over again in September. Perhaps Jesus is waiting for us in our family members who are wanting to be with us. Perhaps Jesus is waiting for us in the quiet of the day, wanting to be alone with us and speaking to us in the sounds of nature that surround us.

In whatever way Jesus is waiting for you, allow yourself to be welcomed and nurtured by Him so you can continue to grow deeper in your relationship with the One who has called you and loves you into being.

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