



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast*

*October 29, 2023*

*“And They Will Know we are Christians...”*

*“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35, NIV)*

### **“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”**

This hymn is the first thing that comes to my mind when I think of what “Love” means to a Christian. In the 1960s Catholic priest Fr. Peter Scholtes wrote this hymn, which emphasizes the importance of unity and love among Christians, and how this love can be a sign of people who are practicing Christians. Here’s a simplified poem-like rendition of the words to that hymn:

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
And we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride.  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land,  
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
They will know we are Christians by our love.*



The hymn is a sung theology (“we are one in the Spirit” and “we are one in the Lord”) and call to action (“pray,” “work with each other,” “guard each one’s dignity,” “walk with each other,” and “spread the news”).

### **Love in Action**

Jesus still teaches us to “love your neighbor as yourself,” the second greatest commandment (Matthew 22:39). My experience has been that many of the bad experiences people report about Christianity involve being judged and excluded. That kind of behavior is not what I read in the Gospels, and it’s certainly not what Jesus taught then and teaches now.

### **So how can I show Christian love...these days?**

Like me, you may feel overwhelmed with all the distressing news headlines from around the world. What can I do? What can anyone do? It may seem almost impossible to express “Christian love.” But let me share this simple poem with you, written by Jan Richardson and titled “Blessing in the Storm”:

*I cannot claim to still the storm that has seized you,  
Cannot calm the waves that wash through your soul,  
That break against your fierce and aching heart.  
But I will wade into these waters, will stand with you in this storm,  
Will say peace to you in the waves,  
Peace to you in the winds,  
Peace to you in every moment that finds you still within the storm.*

*May God’s Peace Find us All! - Vance*

**Prayer box:** let us pray for healing for Robin; Pray for the soul of Theresa and comfort for her family and friends; Pray for John’s soul and comfort for his family and friends; Pray for those suffering in the Middle East; pray for all those whose work spreads the kingdom of God. **Lord, hear our prayer!**