

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention: November 2018

In the Service of Peace

Pray for everybody, everywhere, to use kind words instead of harsh ones.
May we all speak with love, all the time.

Two thousand years ago, St. Paul wrote letters to Christians in Corinth. In one of those letters, he reminded the Corinthians always to speak with love:

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own . . . but do not have love, I gain nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

St. Paul knows that love always wins. We can say the smartest things in the world or be the cleverest inventor in history, but if we say mean things about other people, we're just making a lot of noise. We can heal people or amaze the world by giving things away to the poor, but if we think or say nasty things, our good deeds are trash.

Jesus cares about our hearts. He wants to fill our hearts with love for others—especially people who are difficult to get along with. Jesus wants us to pour love into our words. This is impossible without God's help! We must ask the Holy Spirit to guard our mouths so that we solve problems with kindness and respect.

Let's pray together:

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life!

Please send us your Holy Spirit so our words bring peace and love into the world.

Think About it!

- Think of a person who is kind to you. Do you use loving words when speaking with or about this person?
- Think of a person who sometimes makes you feel angry. How can you pour more love into your words to or about this person?
- Why are words important?

Language Activity: Secret Messages

This month's activities will fill our imaginations with kind words.

What you need:

- Small slips of paper (scratch paper is fine) or 3x5 note cards
- Pens, pencils, or crayons

What you do:

- On each slip of paper or note card, write today's date and the name of a person you know.
- Then write a word or phrase that describes something nice about this person. Examples:
 - *November 3, 2018. Dr. Megan: helps me feel better when I'm sick*
 - *November 14, 2018. Dad: gentle*
- Now hide the message in a place where the person will notice it, like in between pages of a book, under a pillow, or on a desk. The date on the message will be come in handy if the paper stays hidden for a while!
- If you would rather deliver the message personally rather than hide it, that's fine too!

How many messages can you write? The more we think of kind words to describe others, the more our hearts become like Jesus' own Heart.