



Navigating '*Deus Caritas Est*'
Pope Benedict XVI



Division of *Deus Caritas Est*



- Introduction
- Part One: The Unity of Love in Creation and in Salvation History
- Part Two: The Practice of love by the Church as a 'Community of Love'
- Conclusion

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Themes of *Deus Caritas Est*



- The fight against atheism and bad anthropology.
- God's care and concern in our lives.
- Christ, our definitive teacher of love.
- Strengthening the witness of the Body of Christ.

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Deus Caritas Est: Introduction



- God's love is relational, not ideological.
- Purpose #1 of *DCE*: Clarify definition of love.
- Purpose #2 of *DCE*: Show how Church should love.

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Deus Caritas Est: Part One



- Key Question: *What is love?*
- Love is *eros*: A love that receives.
- Love is *agape*: A love that gives.
- God's love is both *eros* and *agape*.
- We have been created for both *eros* and *agape* love.

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Deus Caritas Est: Part Two



- Key Question: *How is the Church to love?*
- The Church must model love and faith in Christ.
- No member of the Church 'should suffer through being in need' (*DCE* #25).
- Christians are invited to love, thereby bringing God's light to the world.

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Deus Caritas Est: Conclusion



- The love of God and love of neighbor can never be separated.
- We must turn to the example of the Saints to show us how to live this love.
- Mary is our model of Christian faith, hope and charity.

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Deus Caritas Est: For Reflection



- Christian love involves both *eros* (receiving) and *agape* (giving). How can I grow in both these areas of love?
- Benedict XVI said that no members of the Church should suffer in their basic needs. How can I better serve the needs of those members of my parish family who are lacking?

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Holy Mary, Mother of God,
you have given the world its true
light,
Jesus, your Son – the Son of God.
You abandoned yourself completely
to God's call
and thus became a wellspring
of the goodness which flows forth
from him.
Show us Jesus. Lead us to him.
Teach us to know and love him,
so that we too can become
capable of true love
and be fountains of living water
in the midst of a thirsting world.
