

There are three theological virtues: faith, hope and CHARITY. These virtues are gifts from God, given to us in Baptism. CHARITY is the greatest of the three (Corinthians 13:13).

CHARITY empowers us to love God and one another as Jesus loved us. Why do we often refer to it as CHARITY, and not simply love?

The Greek language (the New Testament was written in Greek) uses three words to designate love: *eros*, *philia*, and *agape*. *Eros* referred to sexual love. *Philia* refers to friendship love. *Agape* is Christian love. It is translated as CHARITY to stress its uniqueness. It begins in time and reaches perfection in eternity.