



Love God, Love Others- A Devotion

Have you ever been alone outside in the darkness – tired, hungry, and just wanting to go home? These are the day-to-day circumstances many of the women that come to Redeeming Life find themselves even while discovering they are carrying a tiny new life inside of them. A season of darkness, fear, homelessness and wondering how to care not only for their own life but the life of a baby who will depend upon them. Your love in action can help bring light and life - a place to come inside to the light, feel welcomed, be part of a family meal, and lie down to rest in safety.

When we think of ways to love our neighbor, the actions of the early Christian church come to mind. These **communities, founded and nurtured by the apostles, followed Christ's example as places of love, support and acceptance, just as Christian congregations are today. The source of all love and the ultimate example of love is Jesus.** What joy and privilege to honor Christ through actions of compassion, mercy, and love!

How precious a gift to someone who feels unloved, afraid, abandoned and without hope, to be welcomed in our churches into relationship with Christ and with one another - and to be offered encouragement and support as they work to learn job and life skills and learn about Jesus.

As St. Paul said of the Corinthian Christians: "You yourselves are our letter - known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ as the result of our ministry, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God." So it will be with the Christian community both far and near that **extend Christ's love and compassion to the moms that will live in our maternity home – welcoming them to Word and Sacrament Ministry, nurturing them through genuine care and community; present with them in worship, with them for fellowship, present as family and always pointing them to Jesus.** To be greeted with welcome home! Restoration, hope, life, forgiveness in Christ and a brighter future through changed lives and the gift of eternal life received in Baptism. Thanks be to God!

We pray – dear Lord, thank you for the gift of life and for the grace and mercy which is new and fresh each day. Thank you for being light and truth in our darkness and calling us to help and bring hope to those in need. We know we do this not to earn our salvation, but as a reflection of the love, grace, and mercy you lavish upon us. May we love you and love one another in action and truth!

This devotion was written by Deaconess Lori Trinche who serves as Program Director of Illinois Ministries for RLOM in celebration of Life Sunday and the ministry of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries.

Redeeming Life was founded in Sanford, FL to offer a Christ-centered maternity home for single mothers in crisis pregnancy situations who choose life for their babies. RLOM provides a safe and secure place to live, programming to learn life skills for independent living, and an opportunity to grow in faith with our Savior. The home is run by a deaconess and a house mom trained in leading women. RLOM added a transition home in Florida for women to practice the skills for successful independent living with support from the ministry.

In 2023, RLOM will open its second maternity home in suburban Chicagoland's East Dundee, Illinois. Each location partners with a local LCMS church to provide a family of faith for the residents and staff. Future plans include opening new maternity homes throughout the United States.

For more information, visit rlom.org.

