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“You have to live in harmony with your fellow men and understand them”

You have to live in harmony with your fellow men and understand them as a brother would. As the Spanish mystic says, you have to put love where there is no love to obtain love. (The Forge, 457)

9 March

Christ, who came to save all mankind and who wishes Christians to be

associated with him in the work of redemption, wanted to teach his disciples — you and me — to have a great and sincere charity, one which is more noble and more precious: that of loving one another in the same way as Christ loves each one of us. Only then, by imitating the divine pattern he has left us, and notwithstanding our own rough ways, will we be able to open our hearts to all men and love in a higher and totally new way.

Tertullian writing in the second century tells us how impressed the pagans were by the behaviour of the faithful at that time. So attractive was it both supernaturally and humanly that they often remarked: 'See how they love one another.'

If you think, looking at yourself now or in so many things you do each day, that you do not deserve such praise; that your heart does not respond as it

should to the promptings of God,
then consider that the time has come
for you to put things right.

The principal apostolate we
Christians must carry out in the
world, and the best witness we can
give of our faith, is to help bring
about a climate of genuine charity
within the Church. For who indeed
could feel attracted to the Gospel if
those who say they preach the Good
News do not really love one another,
but spend their time attacking one
another, spreading slander and
quarrelling? (Friends of God,
225-226)