



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, January 8, 2023

### Ask Where the Greatest Love Is to Be Found

The dark shadow of space leans over us....

We are mindful that the darkness of greed, exploitation, and hatred also lengthens its shadow over our small planet Earth.

As our ancestors feared death and evil and all the dark powers of winter, we fear that the darkness of war, discrimination, and selfishness may doom us and our planet to an eternal winter.

May we find hope in the lights we have kindled on this sacred night, hope in one another and in all who form the web-work of peace and justice that spans the world.

**In the heart of every person on this Earth burns the spark of luminous goodness; in no heart is there total darkness.**

May we who have celebrated this winter solstice, by our lives and service, by our prayers and love, call forth from one another the light and the love that is hidden in every heart. Amen.

(Edward Hays, *A Winter Solstice Prayer* from Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim)

The most important question a Christian can ask when making any decision in life is "**where the greatest love is to be found,**" Pope Francis wrote in a letter marking the 400th anniversary of St. Francis de Sales, a doctor of the church....

"We are challenged to be a church that is outward-looking and free of all worldliness, even as we live in this world, share people's lives and journey with them in attentive listening and acceptance. That is what Francis de Sales did when he discerned the events of his times with the help of God's grace.

Today he bids us set aside undue concern for ourselves, for our structures and for what society thinks about us and consider instead the real spiritual needs and expectations of our people....

Like the Second Vatican Council would teach 350 years later, St. Francis de Sales knew that **every person was called to holiness** and that the call was specific to each person and his or her talents, shortcomings, and state in life. And, the saint knew that the call was a grace, poured out with love." (From *Totum Amoris Est* (Everything Pertains to Love), released by the Vatican on December 28, 2022, Cindy Wooden - Catholic News Service)

**When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.** Jimi Hendrix