



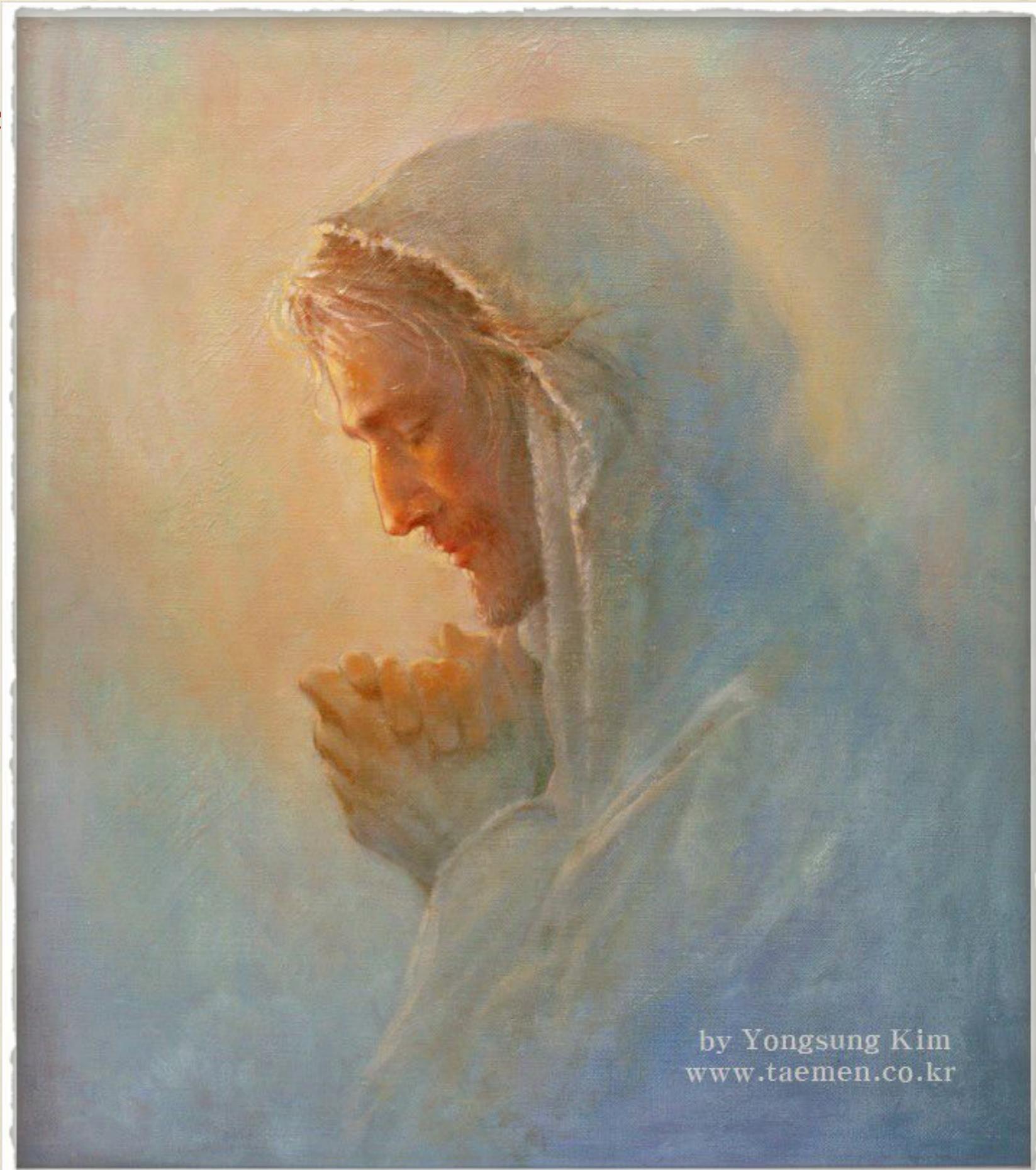
Day 8. Friendship in Christian Lives

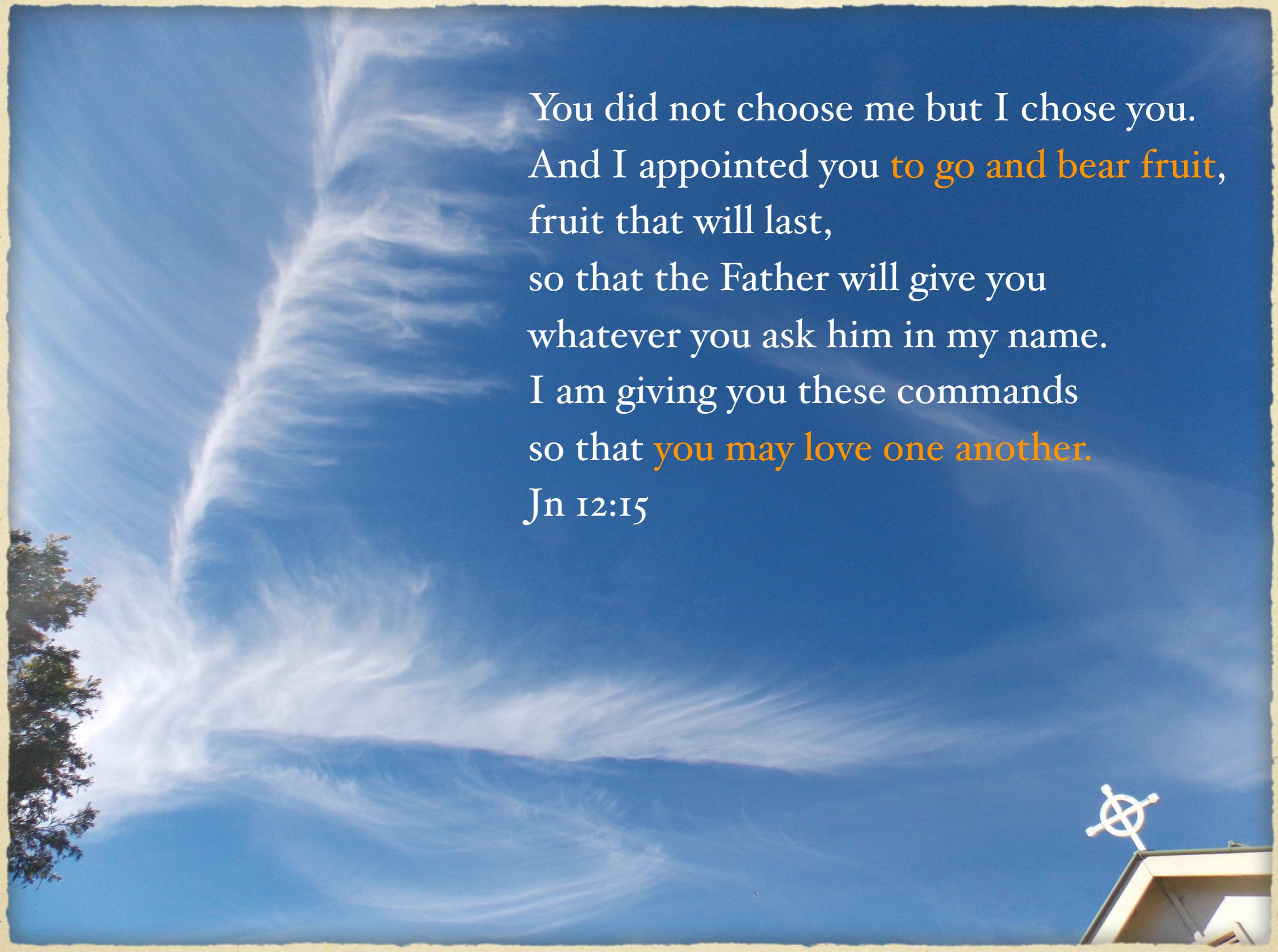
I have called you friends,
because I have made known
to you **everything** that I have
heard from my Father.

Jn 15:15

➤ motif of friendship

- an expression of the
love of God we see
made manifest
in the person of
Jesus





You did not choose me but I chose you.
And I appointed you **to go and bear fruit**,
fruit that will last,
so that the Father will give you
whatever you ask him in my name.
I am giving you these commands
so that **you may love one another**.
Jn 12:15

Bear with one another and,
if anyone has a complaint against
another, forgive each other; just as the
Lord has forgiven you, so you also must
forgive. Col 3: 13



To bear:

to carry, bring

be marked by, have as an attribute

to hold up, sustain

to tolerate, put up with

to stand, endure

to give birth, **to be fruitful**, yield

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God
he created them, male and female he created them. Gen 1:27

*So Love created humankind in the image of love, in the image of love
humankind was created, male and female love created.*

But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, and the
everlasting King. Jer 10:10

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and behold the face of God. Ps 42.2

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.' 2 Cor 6:16

For they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. 1 Thess 1:9

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Mt 16:16



My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

Jn 15:8-11







Bond of Perfection Jeanne de Chantal & Francois de Sales, Wendy M, Wright

Friendships were not simply relationships between individuals but were supported by the understanding of the nature of Christian vocation.

The Christian contemplative world produced a good number of surprising relationships between men and women and gave to women, because of its vision of the human person, a place of freedom to develop in personal ways and be transfigured. These friendships proclaim the advent of a new world in which barriers drawn between the sexes could no longer impede the intense and deeply Christian impulse to love one another and to become as one person in the profoundly human task of recreating life in the image of God. p31

Jerome d 420 was followed from Rome to Holy Land by a band of female ascetics, who wanted to live the Christian monastic vision.

- Paula a noble widow and daughter Eustochium found monastic communities for men and women in Bethlehem
- The friendship these two shared was central to the great churchman's entire life's vision, but suffered disapproval for relationship with the opposite sex.

Another Roman widow, Melania the Elder established a double monastery with her associate Rufinus.

Melania's granddaughter, Melania the Younger with her husband Pinion took a vow of chastity, and founded two monasteries at Tagaste and later joined Jerome's communities in Bethlehem.

John Chrysostom d407 and Olympias

- the bishop enjoyed a relationship of mutual respect and moral support, she received spiritual direction and edification, he received emotional support from her when he was in exile
- she provided financial support and supervision for a convent in Constantinople which he established yet Chrysostom was publicly censored for meeting her alone.



8th cent Anglo-Saxon the nun Lioba travelled to Germany with St Boniface to establish the Christian religion



- a soul mate and his intellectual equal, a classical scholar
- founded a woman's community
- he granted her permission to pray at his monastery of Fulda, a favour never granted to any other woman.
- Boniface requested that she be buried beside him "so that they who had served God in this lifetime with equal sincerity and zeal should await together the day of resurrection. (monks did not carry this out)

Medieval Era

Francis d 1226 and Clare of Assisi d1253

-both left their noble families to live in prayer and poverty

Clare was established by Francis as the foundress of the second order of the Franciscan family. She shared Francis' intimate vision in a way no one else did. While she remained in the cloister and Francis and his brothers were mendicants, they were in constant contact and considered their work one.

Franciscan path to friendship with God

-a wholehearted relationship with God

-relationship as a way of life, not just a point of meditation

-God in the person of Jesus Christ

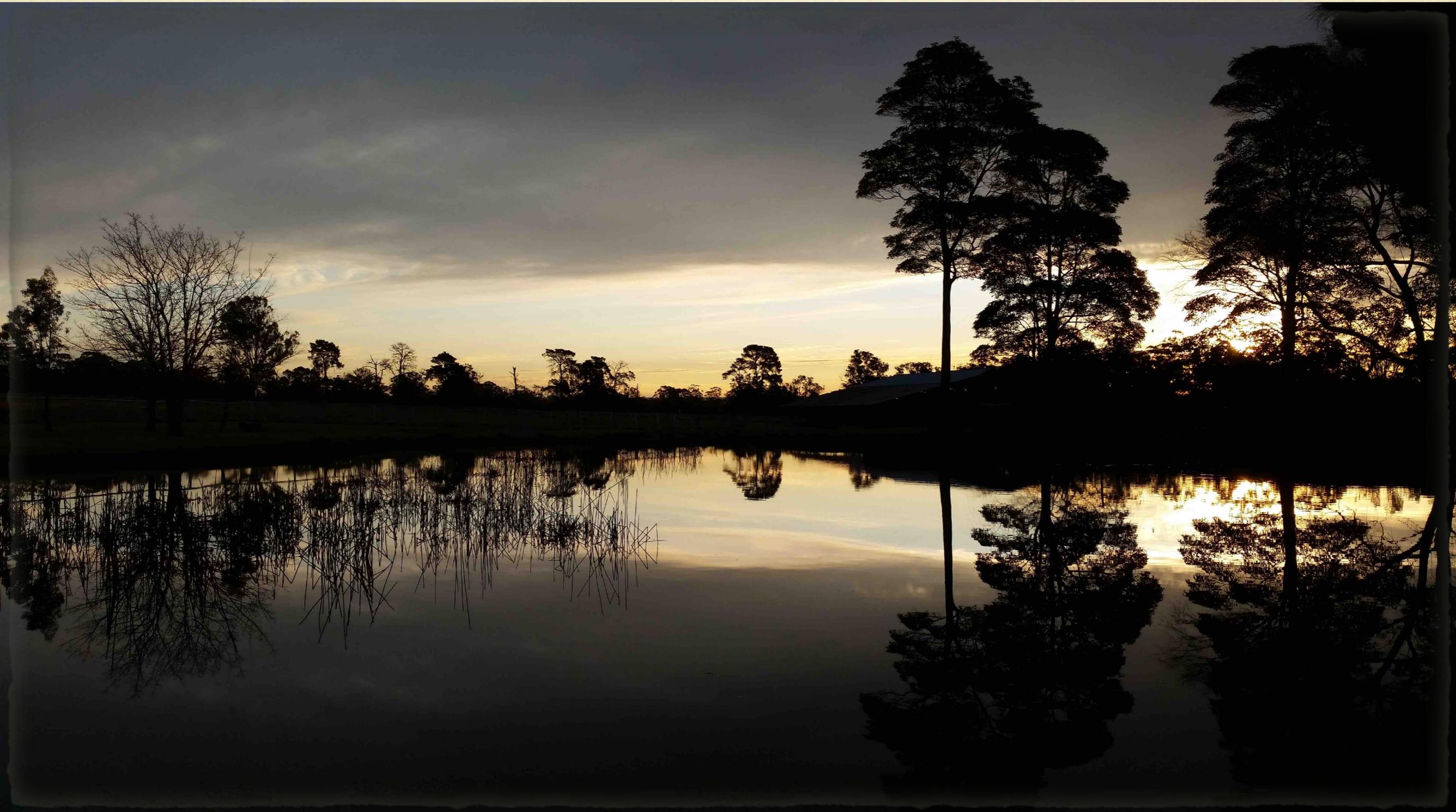
-prayer fosters our fidelity to a relationship with Christ

-the deeper we enter into friendship with Christ,

the more willing we are to love our neighbour



Place your mind before the mirror of eternity! Place your soul in the
brilliance of glory! Place your heart in the figure of the divine substance!
And transform your entire being into the image of the Godhead itself
through contemplation. So that you too may feel what his friends feel.

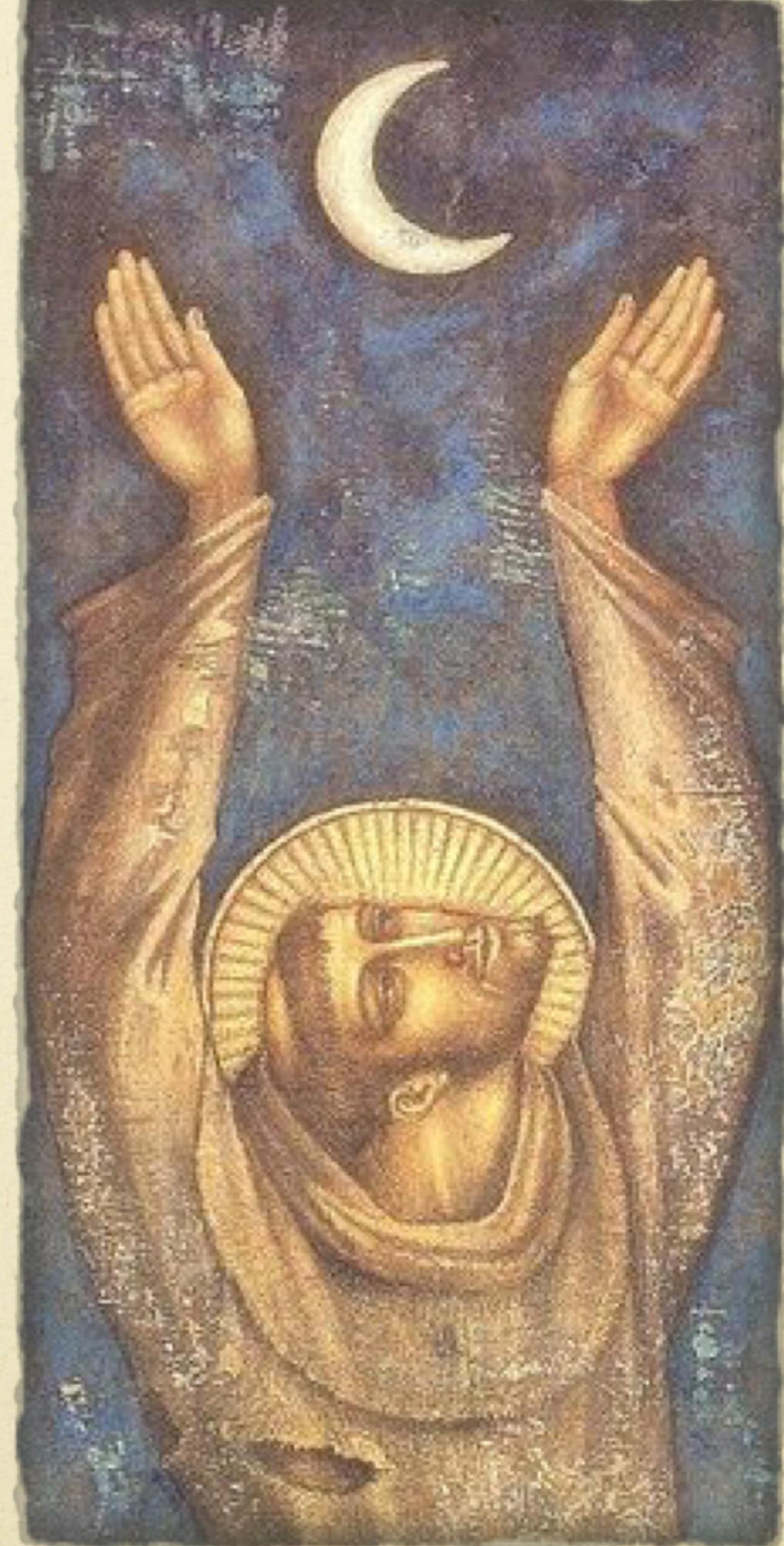


Christ left us an example that we might follow in his footsteps. St Francis

Our friends are all those who unjustly inflict upon us distress and anguish, shame and injury, sorrow and punishment, martyrdom and death. We must love them greatly for we shall possess eternal life because of what they bring us. Earlier Rule

Love your enemies, do good to those who abuse you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.. Lk 6:27-33

The one who loves God by loving the enemy is a friend of Christ.



Medieval Era

Jordan of Saxony, successor of Dominican order after Dominic

-Diana of Andalo, young woman with a passion for contemplative life against family wishes. Jordan helped her establish the second order of St Dominic and wrote (in letters between 1222-1237)

You are so deeply engraved on my heart that then more I realise how truly you love me from the depths of your soul, the more incapable I am of forgetting you and the more constantly you are in my thoughts, for your love of me moves me profoundly and makes my love for you burn more strongly.

Jordan



Catherine of Siena d 1380 and Raymond of Capua

- her spiritual director for 6 years and treasured friend
- referred to him as the father and son given me by that gentle Mother Mary (dual relational role evocative of the specific nature of rel)
- After her death Raymond devoted 11 years of his life to recording her memory, one of most reliable sources of her life.

Catherine of Genoa d 1510 & Ettore Vernazzo, young lawyer 23 yrs younger

- she was matron of a hospital, attracted followers by visionary and penitential gifts
- met during an outbreak of plague, he offered himself as an aide wanting to live a holy life
- close friendship extended to his wife and daughters
- her historian and compiled her life and doctrine

Vincent de Paul d 1660 and Louise de Marillac d 1660

- long and faithful friendship, peasant turned priest, illegitimate daughter of French aristocracy
- together founded the Daughters of Charity, giving expression to their mutual passion for charity and ministry to the sick and dying.
- Vincent was originally her director
- recognised her mature spiritual gifts and gave her much freedom in the direction of their congregation
- he gave her his blessing to conduct retreats for her spiritual charges



Tell us please what is on your mind? Mine has been very much occupied this morning with you and with the thoughts Our Lord is giving you.

Vincent to Louise 1630

As for the rest, I beg you once and for all, not to give it a thought until our Lord makes it evident that He wishes it, and at present He is giving indications to the contrary. We want a number of good things with a desire that seems to be of God, and yet it is not always from Him... You are trying to become the servant of these poor women, and God wants you to be His own, and perhaps of more people that you would be in that way. And even if you were only His, is it not enough... that your heart is honouring the tranquility of Our Lord's? Then it will be fit and ready to serve Him. Letter 71

Please take care of your health. It is no longer yours, since you destined it for God. And my heart is no longer my heart but yours, in that of Our Lord, Whom I desire to be the object of our one love. Letter 119

Pierre de Berulle and Madame Acarie established a long-term relationship resulting in the importation of the Spanish Discalced Carmelites into France.

Jean Eudes, a missionary and member of the Oratory, an organisation dedicated to the spiritual nurturance of the priesthood instituted by Berulle, had a tender affection for Madame de Camilly who shared a zeal for reformatory work. She soon became the manager of and his right hand in the Order of Our Lady of Charity, which he founded for the care of fallen women. They held a veneration for Marie des Valleees, a flamboyant woman with mystical gifts. Marie became Eudes' inspiration. He called her the eagle and under her influence his later life took a new direction.

Francois de Sales d 1622



Jeanne de Chantal d 1641



a great interior warmth that I have to wish for you a perfect love of God and other spiritual blessings...1604

O God, my dearest Daughter, how tenderly and ardently I feel the sacred bond and the good of our holy unity! I preached a sermon full of flames this morning I was so aware of it. I must tell you how much I wish for blessings for you! You cannot imagine how I was impelled at the altar to commend you to Our Lord for ever and ever. Letters 4

The love I bear you is completely in God.



I have never intended there to be any connection between us that carries any obligation except that of love and true Christian friendship, whose binding force St Paul calls 'the bond of perfection'....The bond of love grows in time and takes on new power by enduring. It is exempt from the severance of death - Love is as strong as death and more powerful than hell (Song) ...

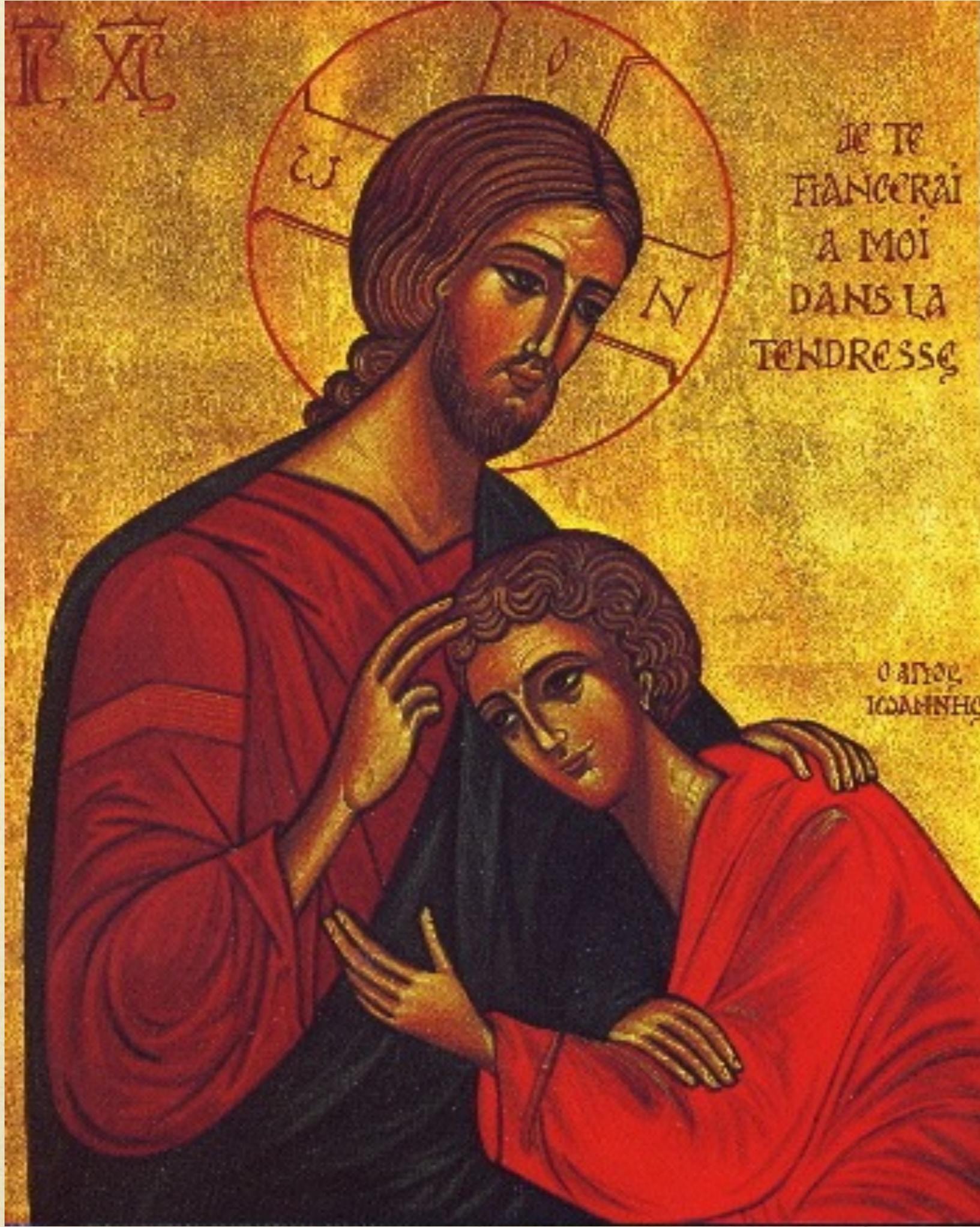
This is our bond, these are our chains which, the more they restrain and press upon us, the more they give us ease and liberty. Their power is only sweetness, their force only gentleness, nothing is so pliable, nothing so solid as they are. Therefore, consider me intimately linked with you and do not be anxious to understand more about it except that this bond is not contrary to any other bond, whether it be of a vow or of marriage. Letters 2

My true, father....I close by giving you a thousand good nights and by telling you what has occurred to me. It seems to me that I see the two portions of our spirit as only one abandoned and surrendered to God. So be it, my very dear Father. May Jesus live and reign for ever! Amen. Don't be in a hurry to get up too soon. I am afraid that the coming feast day will make you do too much. God lead you in everything.



A Christian friendship was a bond with another person cultivated within the context of the ultimate vocation of becoming fully human. The bond itself because part of the vocation. For Francois, friendship equated with love and so it could be part of the total process of becoming the pure lover of God that humankind is intended to be. p104

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. Col 3:13,14



IL XI

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A MOI
DANS LA
TENDRESSE

O AΓΓΕΛ
ΙΩΑΝΝΗΝ



What are the fruits
of your friendship with
God?

What has Jesus
shown you about friendship?

What are the fruits
of the friendships in your life?

What is friendship
teaching you about love?