

“To Create  
A World  
More Human  
and  
More Divine”

A message by  
**Anthony G. Bottagaro**

Copyright © Anthony G. Bottagaro 1983  
All Rights Reserved

## **“To Create A World More Human And More Divine”**

I believe we can change this world of ours into a world more human and more divine, and believe it or not, it's simple and exciting. Together, while keeping our diversity as a people, we are one in this challenging and ongoing adventure. This lifelong journey is not centered around the building of nursing homes, schools, or hospitals, nor is it a fundraiser for any particular organization or religious denomination. It is centered around all of us, as individuals, and it's based on love. There are no special classes or books needed; the only requirement is our love and the power of Jesus Christ that comes with it by simply living life to the fullest and loving one another.

Before I continue, I thought it would be appropriate to make a statement on the focus of this mission and where I stand in my relationship to Christ and his message as it relates to the world today. First, I have been asked by others to describe and explain the focus of creating a world more human and more divine in greater detail, or in other words, what's really the bottom line. The fact is there is only one purpose or focus and that's simply to create a society inspired by God through love. Second, I'm just an ordinary person and I have no secrets or hidden motives in the role I play in this endeavor. I know that God has blessed me with a wonderful wife, five great children, and a life that's full; and I choose of my own free will and out of love to serve Him to the best of my abilities. I wish for no money or rewards in this service, and by working in

the business sector I'll provide my own resources to spread the word of God. What I'm to say I believe, for I speak not from textbooks or theological courses, but from the heart, and from my own experiences and those of others. I believe the word of God and love Him, and my faith in Jesus Christ is irrevocable. I have no doubts, no reservations, no hesitations in my belief in Him, the living Christ. Jesus is first in my life, and without His hand on me, I am absolutely nothing and I thank Him for giving me life.

All that I do is for God with the accolades going one way, to Him. In whatever I do, my goal is simply to be His servant in conveying the message of Christ, which is rooted in love. I accept Christ as the way, the truth, and the life. However, I support, acknowledge, and encourage the spiritual truths found among all people because we all share a common destiny, unity in God.

I believe in the message of Christ with its foundation of love being the conduit in which God works, and how He works in each of our lives is found in our own personal relationship with Him. I believe in the power of God, and not of man; and only through God doing the conversion of mind toward love with the cooperation of man, can we achieve a world more human and more divine. The only thing I can do is speak His truth and then rely on Him. The sun of God shines, and the rain of God falls on all people. He doesn't have any favorites nor is there any exclusivity with Him. He works in the freedom of personhood, and I won't judge or undercut or ridicule the faith of any person; that's not my concern. Where that person is in his or her relationship to God is only between that person and God. What's critical in today's society is that the dignity of all people be preserved. We have

to respect where a person is at his or her time in life. How can we accept God as our Father from whom we all come and then discriminate against others and look upon our personhood differently and not acknowledge the equality of all people?

My belief is in the divinity and doctrine of Christ, and if I can in my small way spread His word of love, to me that's enough, for I trust and know my God, and I believe in His power and His promises to us and in His ability to fulfill them. I believe that when all people of all nations accept and adopt the simple message of Christ, which can be summed up in one word, "Love," then and only then can this earth have the total joy and peace that He promised.

I have been asked if I've originated any new concepts or message toward the goal of creating a world more human and more divine. That's exactly what I have not done. The problem in my opinion is that we have complicated the message of Christ and have tried every now and then to camouflage it, when in fact it's simple enough for all people, not only to understand, but to live. Because we are all one in God and children of God, there's that natural commonality of sisterhood and brotherhood among all of us.

There's no need for any dividing lines. We, and not God, have set up all the rules, regulations, structures, nations and boundaries. There is no mountain, ocean, or any natural boundary that separates us as a people. There is no difference between people except what we choose to call different: the difference of color, friends, or enemies, relatives or strangers, nationalities, and so on. Nor is there any civil law that divides us as a people except the laws and boundaries that we have established within our hearts.

All of us, we are the key, we are all responsible for the

happenings on this earth. We are the people, from poor to rich, with our individual gifts, personalities, qualities and temperaments. We are the church, all of us, together, and when we stand before God, we stand as one, there are no distinctions.

Cardinal Suenens says: "Prudence is everywhere, courage is nowhere, and soon we shall all die of wisdom." In my opinion, we all need to accept the call to courage and to trust God in our use of prudence. There was a time when Jesus was asked this question: "Which is the greatest commandment of the Law?" He replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater, and on these the whole law is based." Then, at the Last Supper He said: "This is my commandment, love one another as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends." When we tie these three commandments together, it sums up in real simple terms what God expects of us and what Jesus Christ did for us; and therein lies the basis of the Gospel and our guide to life. If we can implant these thoughts in our minds, life will take on new meaning and will be uncomplicated because Jesus Christ did not want the word of God complicated. In fact, he made it simple enough to be revealing to little children. We need to accept His word with the simplicity and the trust of a child-like heart.

However, by using worldly intellect and parameters, do we complicate the simple message of Jesus Christ?

Why are we sometimes deaf, dumb, and blind when we search for God in this world of ours? What was said thousands of years ago is applicable today.

When the Holy Spirit spoke, he told our ancestors through the prophet Isaiah: "Go to this nation and say, you will hear and hear again, but not understand, see and see again but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and healed by me."

What's interesting is that man is always on some type of quest, crusade, or campaign as he or she searches for God and tries to make this world more liveable. We have gone the way of the peace march, the walk for desegregation, we have tried sit-ins, protests, civil disobedience and we have even resorted to wars or whatever the "in" thing of the day happens to have been. You name it, man has tried it, and we have tried it all. And what has it gained us? We see temporary relief in some cases, total failure in others, and hollow victories in still others.

Doesn't it seem odd that even though our quality of life has improved greatly in most of the world, that the anxieties, fears, mistrust and threats have grown with it? "It" is the so-called quality of life. The time is ripe to start now and put the past behind us, as our concern should be for the present, for that's the only moment we have control over. The thing that I find most interesting is that because love is inbred and natural to us, people can easily relate to what love provides; and they're really searching for a way to express it and recognize it in others. It seems like each one is waiting for the other person to start the deep bond of friendship and then together to reach out and strengthen that friendship among all people. The level of trust and understanding we have with one

another can be cultivated; for if love is to grow, trust and understanding have to grow with it, and until we can see ourselves and place ourselves in each other's position and viewpoint, we will never develop a deep bond of understanding. The old adage "bear one another's burdens and joys and fulfill the law of Christ" is a truism.

What happens to us? Do we get our priorities turned around as we become involved in this world of ours, or do we get confused with all the slogans, movements, and every conceivable structure known to mankind? And to what and to whom do we relate, the structure or the simple command of Jesus Christ to serve and love God and one another?

Why do we thrive on competition? I'm not referring to individual creativity and competition in the world of sports and business. No, I am referring to the small thinking and pettiness of one-upsmanship in our everyday encounters. At times it seems that without conflict and competition among people in one form or another, we would be lost. What is it that drives us in that direction? Don't we think we're deserving of peace and love and self-respect and all those things that seem like pie in the sky? If creating a world more human and more divine is pie in the sky, then we might as well pack up our bags and go to the nearest hole and wait until we die into nothingness.

The cross of Christ is the sign of God's universal love. We as a people in our relationship with God the Father and in our relationship with each other are so intertwined and so dependent on each other that, as Holy Scripture says, "Whoever who does not love, does not know God."

We as a people are always rallying around somebody or something. What we need to do is to rally around Christ



rather than around some rational philosophy based on the principles of this world. Do we worry and wait for somebody to inspire us and tell us what to do to create a better world? Well, we don't have to worry or wait if we just ask God's blessing and pray for His grace. We can put on Christ, and as we become more like Christ, nobody will have to tell us what to do, we will all know what to do. For how can we be like Christ and not know what to do? Then, our foundations will be as solid as a rock and with total clarity, we'll be able to re-evaluate our involvement with the structures of this world as we create a society inspired by God.

This earth of ours is our current home, and God has entrusted us with it. If we recall, Christ did not ask for us to be removed from the world. He said, "Father, as you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." Jesus Christ is sending us into the world to make it more human and more divine.

His state was divine, yet He did not cling to His equality with God but He emptied Himself to assume the condition of a servant. Love our God, as He loves us, unconditionally, and serve and love our neighbor.

However, we can't love our neighbor until we love ourselves, and this is the key to our mission. The role we fill here on earth, which may seem insignificant to us, is of great importance to God. It doesn't matter how little or how great our role may seem; what's important is how well we play it. A good self-image will create within us a Christ-like foundation upon which to build our lives, with love as our cornerstone. Instead of pointing out all the things that are wrong with church, society, politics, and the world in general, why don't we point to the way that Christ instructed us, to love and serve one another? We

can't be concerned with what the next person is doing, or what the politicians or religious are doing, and so on, until we concern ourselves with what and who we are. If we begin with ourselves first, and as we change and put on Christ, then the love and power that flows from within will inspire the people around us, and that's one sure way we can build unity among people. Perseverance is the key; there's no need to give up on ourselves or get discouraged, whether in criticism, or apathy as we move constantly toward the goal of love.

If all of us who are involved in this pursuit blank from our minds the pride or individualism that stems from trying to build little domains, then with total harmony the words should and will turn into deeds. As old hat as it may sound, integrity and truth, especially with ourselves, will free us from singleness to unity. I really don't believe there's a single person out there who, in the quiet of his or her soul, doesn't want a world more human and more divine. I refuse to believe that we can't change this world Who in the world can argue with the loving message of Christ?

As we become more like Christ, a new awareness takes hold and we no longer have to conform to worldly standards and values with our new Christ-like mind. We then can change the standards and values of the world. God, through Christ, is calling all people to Himself and enlisting them in this ongoing and love-inspired adventure. He is always there, ready to guide us on this credible journey with the same enthusiasm that we have in pursuing it, His children doing His work on earth.

I ask you, if God is for us, who is against us? We have got to believe, believe in ourselves, believe in all people, no exceptions, believe that the power of Christ

can transform people who will in turn radiate this earth of ours with love. To do our thing, whatever that is, without love in our hearts is likened to a race where the thrill of victory and agony of defeat is the same, and the short lived excitement is the anticipation that leads up to the race, the race itself, and when it's over, nothing.

Love is in us and is always straining to be released. The power of love based on Christ is a force so powerful that it's incomprehensible. We all know it, and all we have to do is to accept it and bring it to our conscious mind. When we can acknowledge and respect ourselves as to where we are in life and acknowledge the spiritual truths of all people and where they are in life, then we will be able to show our inner strength and faith in God and ourselves.

Enthusiasm, generosity, and love, those are the things that ignite us in Christianity. We are not a religion of despair, but of hope. We need to accept our human responsibility out of love and not fear.

So, we may or may not choose to print signs or join activist groups, or have long mental dissertations to arrive at some exotic plan of action, for activity without love has no permanent impact on life; nor do we have to wait until Sunday or some other day. Today is the day, why wait, we can begin now, and it's simple and exciting. All we have to do is put on Christ, live life to the fullest and love one another.

Lip service takes us just so far. It's not just a matter of practicing what we preach, but goes beyond that in our normal everyday encounters, and if we don't follow through on our promises to one another and commitments to one another, how can we build the trust relationship that's needed to instill total love in our lives? People like to get involved when they feel they

can benefit; however, whether or not we interact with one another, each of us affects the other person's life; that's a plain and simple fact. There's a natural impulse and mutual advantage to helping one another, for we're all one in God. The common denominator is not religion, but it's God, who is love, and God is a 24 hour commitment every day of our lives. Religion is a means, and God is an end.

Love is contagious and so is happiness. Our love and the love and power of Christ is a force so strong that with that combination there's nothing on this earth that couldn't be changed for the better. Saint Paul hit the nail on the head, and it's written down and recorded in history for all to read and understand. It can be found in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verses 1-13, and I believe it's the key in finding the answers to our problems. In essence, he said: "If I have all the eloquence of men or the gift of prophecy and know everything, and if I have faith to move mountains and give away all I possess but I am without love, then I am nothing at all." He concluded with: "There are three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love because God is love." True love requires sacrifice, for the fact is that true love considers the other person first, love endures all.

So we can read all the books in the world from the motivational type to spiritual writings, or go to the finest universities, or be a great tradesman, salesman, doctor, or whatever our earthly vocation happens to be, but greatness without love is nothing, for without love we have no foundation. Whatever we create and establish for society, if it was created without love, we have accomplished nothing; for without love, it just can't last.

It takes courage and truth for all those involved in service to face people and say, "We need you as a person of God with love and your individual talents in assisting each other," period; no more need be said. I believe if people are approached with that attitude, an attitude of love and trust, the response will be overwhelming in support, and the return will be a thousandfold. If we give money to benefit hospitals, schools, and other institutions, or give of our talent, but if it's devoid of love, it simply has a zero effect on life. We, as individuals, have great human resources. When we share those resources in whatever we are and whatever we do, with one another, out of love, then the residual effect we have on society will be lasting and will multiply itself as the earth gets tugged toward the Kingdom of God.

Our mission will not be accomplished until all men and women rid themselves of hate, built-up prejudices, pride, greed, and blindness to the injustices that are created on earth. Isn't it about time that all the words and pledges of all institutions and structures have a common goal toward creating a world more human and more divine? Or will once again the words of the prophet Isaiah ring true as he says, "You will hear and hear again but not understand, see and see again but not perceive."

Instead of competition and fragmentation, we need to encourage cooperation among the various denominations and service organizations by simply acknowledging to all people that the underlying purpose is to spread the Kingdom of God. The message of Christ has always been love, and it hasn't changed; although we may use different methods and take different roads to accomplish our goals, they all lead

to the kingdom of the one God: a Kingdom that's universal, a Kingdom of truth and life, a Kingdom of justice, love and peace.

When we as a people, one by one, put on Christ and live and love one another, then the answers to the problems that beset this world of ours will become apparent through the process of love; and therein lies the basis for peace and the renewal of family, the answer to injustice, drug addiction and abuse, and therein lies the basis and answer to solve our hunger and poverty problems that exist in this world, and so on. The solutions are there. With faith we can do it, as our minds and hearts accept the love of God, and then planted in love and built on love we become more like Christ, and we will know what to do, as the words turn into deeds enabling us to live life to the fullest as we love one another.

We have to be optimistic in our approach to creating a world more human and more divine, and we have great company in this adventure, as Jesus Christ is the eternal optimist. Did He Himself not leave behind a small group of ordinary men to carry on His word?

Jesus Christ is counting on us, we, His people, to act on His word by simply living life to the fullest and loving one another.

This is my way; and I look forward to meeting you on the roadway of love. So as we participate in our respective houses of worship and service organizations, and as we relate and interact with one another in our jobs, homes and everyday encounters with and through love, we create a world more human and more divine.

I ask you, is there any greater challenge or adventure for a life more natural and more exciting?



“With Love...Pass it On”