

115th Annual Council of the Diocese of West Texas
McAllen, Texas February 21, 2019

***Prayers at the Convening of Council
Thursday, February 21, 1:05 p.m.***

**A Reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Church in Corinth, (1 Corinthians
13, The Message)**

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

²If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

³⁻⁷If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

⁸⁻¹⁰ Love never dies.

Let us pray:

For a Church Convention

Almighty and everlasting Father, you have given the Holy Spirit to abide with us for ever: Bless, we pray, with his grace and presence, our bishop David, our other bishops and clergy, and the laity now assembled in your Name, that your Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may fulfill all the mind of him who loved it and gave himself for it, your Son Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

For the Unity of the Church

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent. We offer thanks this day for John Henry Newman, whose eloquence bore witness that your Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic, even amid the changes and cares of this world. Grant that, with him, we may ever follow your kindly light until we find our rest in you, who with your Son Jesus Christ our Lord and the Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, for ever. **Amen.**

For Steadfast Courage

Almighty God, we bless your Name for the witness of Frederick Douglass, whose impassioned speech moved the hearts of people to a deeper obedience to Christ: Strengthen us also to speak on behalf of those in captivity or tribulation, continuing in the Word of Jesus Christ our Liberator, who with you and the Holy Spirit dwells in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Additional Intercession and Thanksgivings

And now, gathering up all our desires and hopes for this Council and for our lives, let us pray as our Savior Christ has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...