

## The Church and Love

1 John 4:9–12, NKJV (excerpted)

*Fourth Reflexion de Adviento 2025*

“In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world ... Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another ... If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.”

Advent teaches us to wait with anticipation. It also teaches us about God’s eternal and unconditional love for humanity. The season reveals the mystery of incarnation: God’s love became visible in Jesus. And now, that same love becomes visible through the Church.

Expressing more than mere feelings and sentiments, Christ dwells with us in our struggles, in our hopes, and even in our waiting. God’s love assures us that we are not alone. But that same love confronts us as well. The Church cannot reduce love to sentiment or speech. Love must be evident in action.

The Church is called to embody love that feeds the hungry, welcomes the stranger, and resists injustice. In a world that too often divides and excludes, Advent love beckons us to become a people who live out God’s love in community.

This Advent season, may the Church be a sign of love incarnate, a comfort to the weary, and a holy confrontation to all that dehumanizes life.



Leslie Díaz-Pérez is an educator and pastoral leader passionate about learning and teaching. With two decades across classroom and pulpit, she builds bridges among cultures and generations. Her experience includes 23 years in special education in Chicago, pastoral leadership, and innovative programs for theological formation. She serves as Senior Director of Admissions & Enrollment and Director of El Centro for Latinx Theology and Ministry at McCormick Theological Seminary, where she develops and implements recruitment initiatives and partnerships, and strengthens programs that expand access. She enjoys faithfully accompanying churches and communities, laughing, learning, and encouraging with humor, wisdom, and faith.

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