

OUR RESPONSE

**And did you get what
You wanted from this life, even so?
I did.
And what did you want?
To call myself beloved, to feel myself
beloved on earth.**

Raymond Carver

Imagine you were an oyster. The public would see you as an infrangible nut, a kind of sea-raid shelter, but you would see yourself as all mother-of-pearl inwardness and vulnerability.

Seamus Heaney

Who what and how one loves determines who and what one is and will become.

Sandra Schneiders

My false and private self is the one who wants to exist outside the reach of God's will and God's love - outside of reality and outside of life. And such a self cannot help but be an illusion.

Your love is better than life itself Psalm 63:3

Ignatius - as he ends the Spiritual Exercises - says:

Love ought to find its expression in deeds rather than in words.

Love consists in mutual communication.

One learns to love by being loved. The Gospel holds out for us the attractive vision of a God who loves us - a vision of a divine milieu in which we can sense God in all things and all things in God – where "nothing can come as an interference between God and his creature because everything is a means of encounter and union".

As we reflect on the circumstances of our life, within the context of our reading of the Scriptures, Ignatius suggests that we ask for what we want. This could mean interior or felt knowledge, an experience of God's love in everything, gratitude for such love, the ability to love in response, and to serve God in all things.

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