**Complete and original text**

**Love is what matters**

When speaking about love, about charity, Pope Paul VI, in a talk given to the Bishops of Oceania convened in Sydney, remarked: “This is the principal virtue, it seems to us, that is asked of the Catholic Church at this time in the world.”[[1]](#endnote-2)

If this is so, and it is, Christians today must moment by moment be “living charity” in order to respond to the needs of the Church, and to the questions the world is raising.

Christians must aim there: on true love, knowing apart from anything that everything has value when it is inspired and conducted by charity and all the rest counts for nothing, at least for the final account of their lives.

This is how Christians must commit their lives so that at the end of each of their actions they can say: *this is a work that will remain.*

This is what they must make of their daily work, of writing letters, of taking care of personal affairs, of educating their children, of engaging in conversation, of taking trips, of choosing clothes, of eating, even of sleeping, down to the smallest of their actions… when meeting all the unforeseeable things that God will ask of them day by day.

This is how it must be — and it is enormously consoling — for those who can do so little because they are sick or confined in their beds or who remain inactive during an endless convalescence.

This, precisely this is how it must be — how many times have we said it and forgotten it — because what really counts is not our work, our writing, or even our apostolic activities; what counts is the love that must animate our life.

And this is possible for everyone.

For God every action in itself is indifferent. Love is what counts. Love gets the world moving. Even if someone has a mission to fulfil, it will be fruitful to the extent that it is infused with love.

We have to remember, though, that there is love and love. And certainly more powerful is the love distilled from a scrap of life that is consumed like Christ on the cross, than is the love that offers — and everything should be offered — the joy and serenity life can give.

Therefore, so that we Christians do not find ourselves behind the times, we have to try to put love beneath everything we do, being careful that it not be lacking where life proves most difficult and harsh.

*New City, Chiara Lubich, Essential Writings p 83*

1. *Insegnamenti di Paolo VI*, vol. VIII, Vatican City, 1970, 1311. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)