

Along with the writings on friendship by St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross, we will explore the role of friendship in the lives of well-known saints and mystics such as St Francis of Assisi and St Clare of Assisi, St Francis de Sales and St Jeanne Frances de Chantal, St Vincent de Paul and St Louise de Marillac, St Elizabeth of the Trinity and the Beguine Mystics.

As St John of the Cross explains, the more you remember your friend, the more you remember the love of God and the greater your desire to love God. (The Dark Night 1.4.7)

*Today, let him invite you too,
to be friends and
'love one another as I have
loved you'.*

Cost 2017: \$612.00 for the 6 day retreat
\$30.00 deposit confirms the booking.
All tariffs are negotiable

Application Forms available from:
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St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre
PO Box 19A
Douglas Park 2569
Ph. 02 4630 0233
Fax 02 4630 9364
Email: towersretreat@bigpond.com

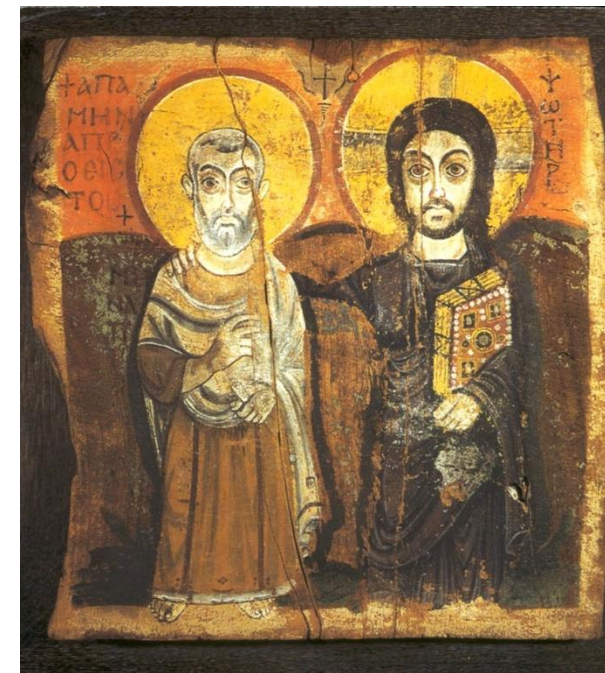
Web site:

<http://towersretreat.abundance.org.au>



'I call you friends.'

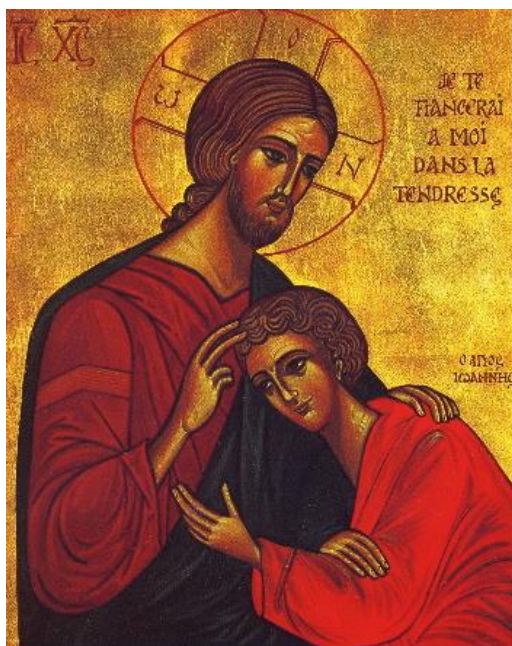
Jn 15:15



*St Mary's Towers retreat Centre
Presenters:
Michael Fallon msc
& Michelle Vass*

*Guided Retreat
29 Sept – 5 October 2017*

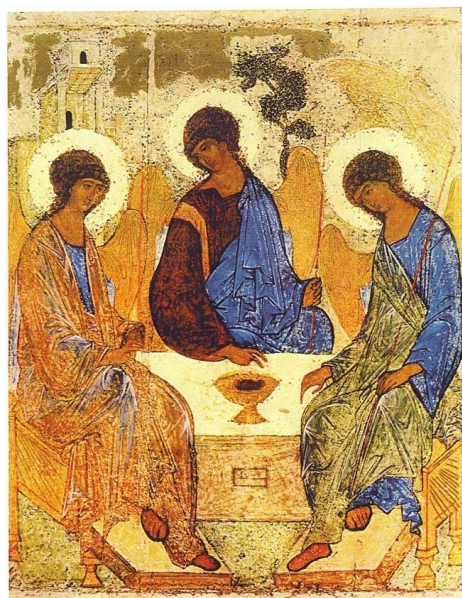
“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends...I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father (Jn 15:12-15).



This retreat will look at the motif of friendship as an expression of the love of God we see made manifest in the person of Jesus. The intimacy of the relationship between Jesus and God, whom he called

‘Abba’ provides the perspective for this retreat.

The New Testament speaks again and again of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. ‘Father’ picks up Jesus’ intimacy in speaking of God. ‘Son’ speaks of Jesus in this intimate communion. ‘Spirit’ speaks of the love that flowed between God and Jesus. It is this ‘love-flow’ or ‘love communion’, the Self-bestowing Source of everything that exists which is the essence of God’s being. It sustains everything in



existence and draws everything into divine communion. This is what we call the Triune

God and it is an amazing truth that this Triune God dwells within us and is the key to understanding friendship as portrayed in the New Testament.

Jesus’ special relationship with some of his closest followers, John, Peter, Mary Magdalene and later Paul was an invitation to not only follow him, but find life to the full as he did in his love communion with God.

Christian friendship is a valuable way to deepen and nurture our love of God. The retreat will also look at some examples of Christian friendship as models and inspiration for our own relationships with others.

