



WORD OF LIFE

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Serve *out of love*

"For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them!"

(1Cor 9:19)



This month we present the experience of Cardinal François van Thuân, who was from Vietnam and spent 13 years in prison, 9 of which were in solitary confinement. He gave witness to the truth that when love is sincere and without any self-interest, others respond with love, too.



**When he was in prison,
he had **five guards**, but
every two weeks the directors of
the prison had to change them
for another group of five because
they would get **«contaminated»**
by the love of the bishop.**

They finally decided to leave the same guards all the time because otherwise he would have converted all the police in the prison!



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«At first the guards would not speak to me. They only answered yes or no.

One night I got an idea.
I told myself, “**François, you
are still very rich because
you have the love of Jesus in
your heart. Love them like
Jesus loved you!**”

The next morning I started
to love them even more than
before, seeing Jesus in each
one, smiling at them and
speaking kindly to them».

«Make yourself one,"
«Live what the other is living."
Or, as we often say:
«Put yourself in the other
person's shoes."
Share their life with them...



**Let's learn to listen carefully
to the voice of God
in the depths of our heart.**

**This is the voice of our
conscience. It will tell us what
God wants of us in every moment.**

**It will help us know
how to love our neighbour and
how to bring them to experience
God's great love for them.**

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