

# CHARITY



*Virgil Elizondo*



Maryknoll, New York 10545

# Catholic Spirituality for Adults

General Editor  
Michael Leach

## Other Books in the Series

*Prayer* by Joyce Rupp  
*Reconciliation* by Robert Morneau  
*Holiness* by William J. O'Malley  
*Diversity of Vocations* by Marie Dennis  
*Eucharist* by Robert Barron

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at [www.maryknollsociety.org](http://www.maryknollsociety.org).

---

Copyright © 2008 by Virgil Elizondo.

Published by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0308.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to:  
Orbis Books, P.O. Box 308, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0308.

Manufactured in the United States of America.

---

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Elizondo, Virgilio P.

Charity / Virgil Elizondo.

p. cm. – (Catholic spirituality for adults)

ISBN 978-1-57075-720-4

1. Church work with Hispanic Americans. 2. Charity. 3. Love—Religious aspects—Catholic Church. I. Title.

BV4468.2.H57E45 2008

241'.4—dc22

2008020451

# Contents

Introduction to Catholic Spirituality for Adults	9
Acknowledgments	11
Author's Introduction: Truly Successful Lives	13
<i>Chapter One</i> A School of Charity	23
<i>Chapter Two</i> Love Begets Love	35
<i>Chapter Three</i> A Portrait of Love	48
<i>Chapter Four</i> Obstacles to Charity	61
<i>Chapter Five</i> The Fruit of True Freedom Is Charity	72
<i>Chapter Six</i> The Effects of Charity	87
<i>Chapter Seven</i> Jesus: The Source and Summit of All Virtues	102

*Chapter Eight*

The Challenges of Charity 119

*Chapter Nine*

Forgiveness: The Ultimate Gift of Charity 128

*A Closing Thought from Pedro Arrupe, S.J.*

Greater Than Nuclear Energy 140