

HOLY HALF HOUR FOR OCTOBER 2016

MERCY, A GIFT

Hymn : Come adore this wondrous presence (No.83)

Introduction :

Dear Friends, we are in the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Mathew 5:7 says ‘blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy’ and a beautiful way of living this beatitude is in acknowledging that ‘mercy is a gift’. Gift of the Father who gave us his Son that we may be saved. Gift of the Son because He gives Himself to us to show the Father’s Mercy. Gift of the Holy Spirit who has anointed us to bring good news to the poor.

The world today teaches us that the way forward is through indifference, ignorance, revenge, hatred, division, injustice and violence. Therefore we need this gift of mercy more than ever in our lives. Jesus spent much of his time among the apostles displaying the quality of mercy – it was something he seemed to put above most other matters. His compassion for the unfortunate appears in scripture over and over. No matter what he was doing or where he was going, when he saw someone in need he would stop to help them. His way was to show mercy and instruct us that we are to “be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”. For the moments that we have used the gift of mercy in our lives let us praise and thank God, and in those moments where we have not been merciful we implore for this gift. (SILENCE)

Hymn : Blessed are they (Vs.1 & 5)

Scripture Reading: Luke 7:12-15 to be proclaimed from the Bible (SILENCE)

Reflection :

- This extraordinary gift of mercy enables us to feel a deep compassion that transcends natural Christian caring and to minister to hurting people in a cheerful and sustained manner.
- The person with the gift of mercy will be drawn to exercise it among the needy, ill, the mentally impaired, the handicapped, shut-ins, imprisoned, bereaved, lonely, and others in troubled situations.
- A merciful person is able to serve in the presence of human misery such as is so often seen among the poor, the sad, the afflicted and the abandoned.
- The gift of mercy is characterized by the ability to suffer alongside the person in pain, in a sense to feel the pain with them and to want to help them bear it.
- Mary, our mother, is a great example of mercy and compassion.

Hymn : Whatsoever you do to the least – No.451

Prayer of the faithful :

We all desire to be merciful just as our Heavenly Father. We implore to Jesus to help us utilize the extraordinary gift of mercy as we say...

Response : Help us to be merciful

- When we are with persons facing pain in the hospital, prison, slums, mental asylum....
- When we are holding hands with those who have lost a dear one...
- When we are called to listen...
- When we are called to stand in support of the poor and needy...
- When we are called to be with those with physical, mental, emotional & spiritual pain...
- When we are called to sit patiently with the lonely...
- When we are called to love the unloved...
- When we are called to provide the accompanying tears and the reassuring smile...
- When we are called to bring cheer in fields of despair.
- When we are called to be light in the darkness of doubt, anger, hatred and jealousy...

We make all these prayers through Jesus who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction : Let us bow

Concluding Prayer :

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and told us that whoever sees you sees Him... You are the visible face of the invisible Father... let the Church be your visible face in the world... You willed that your ministers would be clothed in weakness so they could feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches us feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, of you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn : O Sacrament most holy – No.301

*Prepared by Ms Charmaine Moraes
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