

HOLY HALF HOUR FOR AUGUST, 2016

FOR THE CONDEMNED –BE MERCIFUL

EXPOSITION HYMN: Joyful Celebration. No. 357 Sing to the mountains..

We gather before God our almighty Father, aware of our great need for His mercy and also of His great desire to bestow love and forgiveness upon us. During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, may our prayer and our reading of the Scriptures lead us to a greater appreciation for divine love. May we always recognize that Jesus Christ “is the face of the Father’s mercy.” May we never cease to proclaim to the world the pardon and salvation offered through Jesus, and to live out the Gospel through humble acts of mercy.

SILENCE: 3 minutes.

“Our witness to respect for life shines most brightly when we demand respect for each and every human life, including the lives of those who fail to show that respect for others. The antidote to violence is love, not more violence.”

SCRIPUTRE READING: Luke 6:27-36

SILENCE:5 mins

REFLECTION:

- Jesus started with a powerful punch: *"Love your enemies."* For people everywhere it includes murderers, rapists, child abusers, thieves, cheaters, hit-and-run drivers, slanderers, and politicians who stand for everything you hate.
- **Can you prayer for them? (pause)**
- In today’s world the list may include: the boss who makes work miserable; the teenager who tore your family apart; the teacher who falsely accused you; the next door neighbour who repeatedly threatens you and your family; the physician whose malpractice stole your health; the stockbroker who lost your life savings; the fiancé who was unfaithful; the bully who beat up your child.
- **Think a moment and pray for one of these who hurt you – Be Merciful Jesus says that these are the people we Christians are to love. (pause)**

- Jesus presented a new standard, a non-violent, positive approach to any form of hostility. To love our enemies prevents us from acting out of our own self-interest. It means that forgiveness is at the very core of our faith. **Pray for the gift of Love for your enemies. (pause)**
- To be children of the most high is to be people who live by a higher standard. They are people who ascribe to a non-violent life style. They are people who are willing to turn the other cheek. They are people who break the cycle of violence.

SILENCE: 5 mins.

HYMN: Joyful Celebration. No. 213. It takes courage to answer a call

Psalm 129

R/. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
 Lord, hear my voice!
 O let your ears be attentive
 to the voice of my pleading.

R. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
 Lord, who would survive?
 But with you is found forgiveness:
 for this we revere you.

R. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

My soul is waiting -for the Lord,
 I count on his word.
 My soul is longing for the Lord
 more than watchman for daybreak.
 Let the watchman count on daybreak
 and Israel on the Lord. (R.)

R. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

HYMN: Joyful Celebration. No. 297 O Lord, Furnace of Love...

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS shortened

Merciful Father, we ask your blessing on all we do to build a culture of life. Hear our prayers.

Our response: Merciful Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all people, that their lives and dignity as children of a loving God may be respected and protected in all stages and circumstances. **R.**

We pray for victims of violence and their families, that they may experience our love and support and find comfort in your compassion and in the promise of eternal life. **R.**

We pray for all on death row, that their lives may be spared, that the innocent may be freed and that the guilty may come to acknowledge their faults and seek reconciliation with you. **R.**

Compassionate Father, give us wisdom and hearts filled with your love. Guide us as we work to end the use of the death penalty and to build a society that truly chooses life in all situations. We ask this Father through your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE AND INDIA

BENEDICTION HYMN

DIVINE PRAISES

CONCLUDING HYMN: Joyful Celebration. No. 396 The world stands in need of liberation my Lord.

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