

JANUARY, 2016

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY HOLY HOUR

Hymn for Exposition: Joyful Celebration No. 221: Jesus, my Lord, my God

Introduction: Pope Francis in his homily at the inaugural Mass of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy said, “To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them.” Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s Mercy. In Him, “Mercy” has become living and visible, reaching its culmination. Let us during this Holy hour focus on Christ, who is the Father’s Mercy in Person

PRAYER OF ADORATION TO OUR MERCIFUL LORD IN THE BL.SACRAMENT:

O Jesus, Divine Prisoner of Love, when I consider your Love and how you emptied yourself for me, my senses deaden. You hide your inconceivable majesty and lower yourself to miserable me. O King of Glory, though You hide your beauty, yet the eye of my soul rends the veil. I see the angelic choirs giving you honour without ceasing, and all the Heavenly Powers praising you without cease, and without cease they are saying: “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.

Oh! Who will comprehend your love and your unfathomable Mercy towards us! O Prisoner of Love, I lock up my poor heart in this Tabernacle that it may adore you without ceasing night and day. I know of no obstacle in this adoration; and even though I be physically distant, my heart is always with you. Nothing can put a stop to my love for you.

O Holy Trinity, One and Invisible God, may you be blessed for this great gift and testament of Mercy. I adore you, Lord and Creator, hidden in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I adore you for all the works of your hands that reveal to me so much wisdom, goodness and mercy. O Lord, you have spread so much beauty, even though these beautiful things are but a faint reflection of your incomprehensible Beauty. Although you have hidden yourself and concealed your beauty, my eyes enlightened by faith, reach you, and my soul recognizes its Creator, its Highest Good and my heart is completely immersed in prayer of adoration. (St. Faustina’s Diary)

Let us now listen to God’s Word: Eph 2: 1-7

Silence 5 mins

Reflection: God, the Father, “rich in mercy” after revealing his name to Moses as “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” has never ceased to show in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the “fullness of time” when everything had been arranged according to His plan of Salvation, He sent His Only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. And so, whoever sees Jesus, sees the Father. We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of Mercy, which is a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace and our salvation depends on it. Mercy is the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us and it is the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to a hope of being loved despite our sinfulness. Let us thank God

the “Father of all Mercies” for giving us this Holy Year of Mercy as another opportunity to return back to Him, who awaits us with open arms in Jesus His Only Son. **Silence:** 5 mins.

HYMN: Joyful Cel. No. 395 – The Steadfast love of the Lord

Let us listen now listen to how Jesus, God’s Mercy in Person showed mercy to sinners:

TEXTS: (could be read by different people meditatively):

- i) “Jesus, seeing the crowds of people who followed him, realized that they were tired and exhausted, lost and without a guide, and he felt deep compassion for them (Mt 9:36)
- ii) “When the Lord saw the woman (Widow of Nain), he has compassion on her” (Lk 7:13)
- iii) “Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you” (Jesus to the Gerasene) (Mk5:19)
- iv) “Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’” (Call of Matthew) (Mt9:13)
- v) “Today Salvation is come to this house because he too is a son of Abraham, for the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.” (conversion of Zaccheus) (Lk19:9-10).

Reflection: In all these instances as well as in the parables devoted to Mercy, Jesus reveals the nature of God as that of a Father who never gives up until He has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy. We know these parables as the Parables of the lost sheep, lost coin and the father with two sons (Lk15:1-32). In these parables, Jesus presents God as full of joy, especially when he pardons. In them, we find the core of the Gospel and of our faith, because Mercy is presented as a force that overcomes everything, filling the heart with love and bringing consolation through pardon, for the Heart of the Lord is “Mercy”! In the parable of the “ruthless servant” (Mt18) Jesus affirms that mercy is not only the action of the Father, but it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are. We are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Besides, the same Lord makes mercy an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith when he gave us the beatitude: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy!”

SILENCE: 5 mins.

HYMN: Joyful Cel. No. 74: Cast your burden.

INTERCESSIONS:

Let us now put forward our petitions to the Lord who is the Father of Mercies:

Our Response: Merciful Father, hear our prayer.

- i. We pray for Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests and Religious that they may truly reflect God's Mercy to all people, especially those on the periphery. R/-
- ii. We pray for governments and those pertaining to administering Justice, that they may seek to pardon and grant clemency to criminals and sinners helping them to reform their lives. R/-
- iii. We pray for our Families, that they may become centers of God's Mercy and acceptance especially for those who have fallen away and are looked down upon. R/-
- iv. We pray for those who have gone away from the Church, that responding to God's Grace, they may once more choose to be part of God's family. R/-
- v. We pray for those torn asunder by sin, strife and division, may hearken to the Call of Christ's Mercy and mend their lives through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. R/-
- vi. We pray for our personal needs...

Let us summarize all our petitions as we say: OUR FATHER...

Prayers for Bombay and India... Prayers for Benediction (Joyful Cel. No. 13)

Benediction Hymn: Joyful Cel. No. 245.

Divine Praises

Concluding Hymn: Joyful Cel. No. 377. Thank you Lord. Esp. vv 1 & 3.

Fr Lawrence A. D'Souza

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