

HOLY HALF HOUR FOR SEPTEMBER – 2016

Mary, Mother of Mercy

EXPOSITION HYMN: Joyful Celebration Hymn 436: We seek Thee Lord Jesus.

PRAYER:

Lord our God, in this great sacrament
we come into the presence of Jesus Christ, your Son,
born of the Virgin Mary
and crucified for our salvation.
May we who declare our faith in this fountain of love and mercy
drink from it the water of everlasting life
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

SILENCE: 3 minutes.

Mercy, a positive word, represents the noblest temperaments of humanity: understanding, sympathy, generosity and care. A person who is merciful is highly esteemed. Relieving people in distress, freeing victims trapped in rubble, healing injuries and saving lives in the shadow of death are actions highly appreciated by all because they radiate the most beautiful traits of human nature.

Mercy comes from God the Father. If we stay away from Him, forget Him, we will be unable to recognize the true Face of Mercy.

READING: A reading from the book of the Gospel of St Luke 1:26-38

SILENCE:

8 minutes

REFLECTION:

Pope Francis said in an address, “Mary, whose ‘yes’ opened the door for God to undo the knot of the ancient disobedience, is the Mother who patiently and lovingly brings us to God, so that he can untangle the knots of our soul by his fatherly mercy.” on which areas in my life do I still need to surrender to God?

Pause and reflect – 2 minutes silence

Mary is the Mother who lovingly brings us to God, the One who turns our human yes into miracles. Mary not only gave birth to the Son of God, she gave birth to our hope that by our own affirmative reply to God’s calling in our life,

that God will comfort and care for us as his own. Our Lady is then not only the Mother of God, but the Mother of Mercy, for without her, the pathway of mercy

and grace does not break into our world. We then must demonstrate our gratefulness for her answer to God by becoming vessels of God's mercy for others. Just as he turned her yes into the Incarnation, God can turn our yes into a way for others to encounter Jesus Christ. In what way can we be vessels of God's Mercy? **Pause and reflect – 2 minutes silence**

God can untangle knots in others through our generosity and compassion. He can shower mercy upon a world in such desperate need of it through our actions and gestures of love. This is what it means to be a mature disciple and to live a stewardship way of life. Mary is the Mother of God, but she is our Mother as well. The best way to give thanks, is offer that same love to the world. **Pause and reflect – 2 minutes silence**

Hymn: Joyful Celebration Hymn 131: Gentle Woman

SILENCE: **3 mins.**

Psalm 103

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him,
For he knows how we are formed;
he remembers that we are dust.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity
to eternity toward those who fear him,
And his justice toward children's children
among those who keep his covenant
and remember to fulfill his precepts.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

SILENCE– 3 minutes.

HYMN: Joyful Celebration Hymn 128: From the depths I call to you O Lord

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant: Knowing the love that God has for us encourages us to handover our anxieties and to ask for what we need:

Our response is: God of mercy, hear our prayer!

For the Church, may this year of Jubilee help us rediscover the mercy of God and respond with greater compassion to the needs of others, we pray to the Lord. R/-

For the grace to be peacemakers and instruments of forgiveness: that we may help others experience the freeing and renewing power of forgiveness and reconciliation, let us pray. R/-

For all who have been impacted by floods: that God will give them strength and courage to rebuild their lives, let us pray. R/-

For all of us, that like Mary, Mother of Mercy, we may be obedient instruments of the Holy Spirit and bring the Lord's mercy to those who wait for it. R/-

Celebrant: God of all pilgrim people, you raise up women and men to meet the needs of every age. In Mary, we celebrate a journey of deep love and sensitivity to your will. Like her, may we learn to grow in appreciation of the fullness of your love and the depth of your mystery. Help us to transform the ordinariness of our lives as we reach out to others through the daily challenges of our journey towards you. Amen

PRAYERS FOR BOMBAY AND INDIA

BENEDICTION HYMN

DIVINE PRAISES

CONCLUDING HYMN: Joyful Celebration Hymn 451: Whatsoever you do to the least of my people.

**Prepared by Ms Sophia Fernandes
For the
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