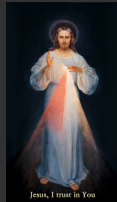


With the Eyes of Mercy!

Reflections on the Year of Mercy in Light of
the New Evangelization

The Message of Mercy



The Message of Mercy

○ "Misericordia" [mercy], is a Latin word meaning...to "give the heart to the wretched", those in need, those who are suffering. That is what Jesus did: he opened his heart to the wretchedness of man. The Gospel has a wealth of episodes which present the *misericordia* of Jesus, his love freely given for the suffering and the weak. – Pope Francis, Audience, June 14, 2014

The Message of Mercy

- Mercy and Sympathy

The Message of Mercy

- When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. – Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus* 3

The Message of Mercy

- The God of the Old Testament.

The Message of Mercy

- Saint Augustine says: "It is easier for God to hold back anger than mercy." And so it is. God's anger lasts but a moment, his mercy forever. – Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus* 21

The Message of Mercy

- The light shines the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5

The Message of Mercy

- Today we can think of the Church as a "field hospital". Excuse me but I repeat it, because this is how I see it, how I feel it is: a "field hospital". Wounds need to be treated, so many wounds! So many wounds! There are so many people who are wounded by material problems, by scandals, also in the Church.... People wounded by the world's illusions.... We priests must be there, close to these people. Mercy first means treating the wounds. When someone is wounded, he needs this immediately, not tests such as the level of cholesterol and one's glycemic index.... But there's a wound, treat the wound, and then we can look at the results of the tests. Then specialized treatments can be done, but first we need to treat the open wounds. I think this is what is most important at this time. And there are also hidden wounds, because there are people who distance themselves in order to avoid showing their wounds closer. – Pope Francis, Address, March 6, 2014

The Message of Mercy

- Easter Joy – Rejoicing in His Mercy
- PETER



The Methods of Mercy

- How do we RECEIVE this Mercy?

The Methods of Mercy

- The Sacraments.
 - Baptism
 - Eucharist
 - Especially Reconciliation.

The Methods of Mercy

- Yet a question may stir within us: is Baptism really necessary to live as Christians and follow Jesus? After all, isn't it merely a ritual, a formal act of the Church in order to give a name to the little boy or girl?...It is not a formality! It is an act that touches the depths of our existence. A baptized child and an unbaptized child are not the same. – Pope Francis, Audience, January 8, 2014

The Methods of Mercy

- If any one of us does not feel in need of the mercy of God, does not see himself as a sinner, it is better for him not to go to Mass! We go to Mass because we are sinners and we want to receive God's pardon, to participate in the redemption of Jesus, in his forgiveness. – Pope Francis, Audience, February 12, 2014

The Methods of Mercy

- Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the center once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace. – Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus* 17
- I cannot say: I forgive my sins. Forgiveness is asked for, is asked of another, and in Confession we ask for forgiveness from Jesus. Forgiveness is not the fruit of our own efforts but rather a gift, it is a gift of the Holy Spirit who fills us with the wellspring of mercy and of grace that flows unceasingly from the open heart of the Crucified and Risen Christ. – Pope Francis, Audience, February 19, 2014

The Methods of Mercy

○ Do not be afraid of Confession! When one is in line to go to Confession, one feels all these things, even shame, but then when one finishes Confession one leaves free, grand, beautiful, forgiven, candid, happy. This is the beauty of Confession! I would like to ask you — but don't say it aloud, everyone respond in his heart: when was the last time you made your confession? Everyone think about it ... Two days, two weeks, two years, twenty years, forty years? Everyone count, everyone say "when was the last time I went to confession?" And if much time has passed, do not lose another day. Go, the priest will be good. Jesus is there, and Jesus is more benevolent than priests, Jesus receives you, he receives you with so much love. Be courageous and go to Confession! — Pope Francis, Audience, February 19, 2014

The Mission of Mercy

○ May the message of mercy reach everyone, and may no one be indifferent to the call to experience mercy...This is the opportune moment to change our lives! This is the time to allow our hearts to be touched! — Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus* 1

The Mission of Mercy

○ Mercy begets Mercy!

The Mission of Mercy

I would like to recall (the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy), because it will be good to hear them again: to feed the hungry; to give drink to the thirsty; to clothe the naked; to harbor the homeless; to visit the sick; to visit the imprisoned; to bury the dead. I encourage you to carry on your work with joy and to model it after Christ's, allowing all who suffer to encounter you and count on you in time of need. – Pope Francis, Audience, June 14, 2014

The Mission of Mercy

How can I find the wounds of Jesus today? I cannot see them as Thomas saw them. I find them in doing works of mercy, in giving to the body — to the body and to the soul, but I stress the body — of your injured brethren, for they are hungry, thirsty, naked, humiliated, slaves, in prison, in hospital. These are the wounds of Jesus in our day. We must touch the wounds of Jesus, caress them. We must heal the wounds of Jesus with tenderness. We must literally kiss the wounds of Jesus. What Jesus asks us to do with our works of mercy is what Thomas asked: to enter his wounds. – Pope Francis, Homily, July 3, 2013

The Prodigal Son



The Mission of Mercy

○ The Prodigal Father



The Mission of Mercy

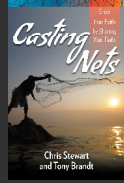
○ But what of the older brother?

The Mission of Mercy

- Who is this story about?
- Who is it for?
- What is the Mission?
 - How can we be more effective at Evangelization...?

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