

January 3, 2016 - Mercy Corner



Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful. Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." Lk 6:36-38

The Jubilee of Mercy began one month ago. What does it mean to be merciful like the Father—how is God merciful? Throughout Scripture, we see many examples of God's mercy that is not just an act of clemency for those who have done wrong. It is a way of life that is manifested in the compassion, love, and joy we see that God has for all creation.

While it is easy to see how God is merciful through the witness of the Scriptures and the life of the Church, it is sometimes challenging for us to apply it to our daily actions. Have we recognized our dependence on God's superabundant love and mercy that he pours out on us? Pope Francis declares that it is only once we are nourished with God's mercy and allow his merciful love to transform us, that we are better able to show others this merciful love. Adopting a merciful attitude is not simply a spiritual action; it also includes physical acts that witness to God's love. Luke 6:37-38 provides us with examples of how our actions can reflect the way that God treats us: through not judging or condemning, by forgiving others, and by giving generously to others. However, our actions of mercy are not simply things we do so that we will be judged worthy by God. They are actions that flow from our embrace of God's mercy and love for us. By showing mercy and love to others, we illustrate how we have accepted God's merciful love and how we want to continue this outpouring of mercy.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do I see God's love and mercy acting in my own life? What is one way that I can receive these gifts from God and acknowledge them in my own spiritual life?
2. What does it mean for me, for my family, or for my parish, to be merciful as God is merciful? How can I/we concretely express this merciful attitude that is grounded on the love of God?