

Mercy Corner

January 10, 2016



Happy New Year! January is often a month of new beginnings and new resolutions. In this Jubilee Year, we are asked to make acts of mercy a priority in our lives and to live out the compassionate love of God. Throughout the Old Testament, we read stories of God's covenant that he made with his chosen individuals (through Noah, Abraham, and Moses). This covenant is more than a promise; it is also a relationship between God and his people. This relationship continues with the New Covenant, which is made through the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus, and with our participation in the New Covenant through the sacraments of the Church. God, who is ever faithful, will never break his covenant with us. Even if we fail or fall away, God still yearns for our return.

Pope Francis reminds us of God's compassion and mercy toward us. No person and no action can compare to the generous mercy and compassion that God has for us. Even though we may break our part of the covenant relationship, God pardons our sins because of his great love. God "delights in mercy"—God's merciful attitude is not a chore or a bother for God. Rather, pardoning sins and drawing people back into a relationship brings joy to God. As we make our annual resolutions, don't forget to include one about acting as God acts, with love and compassion to everyone we encounter. If you have trouble keeping this resolution, just remember that God will always keep his "resolutions"!

Reflection Questions

1. After reading about God's covenant with us and God's enduring love and compassion, what are some things we can do to strengthen our relationship with God? Why is it important for us to respond to God's covenant of love and mercy with our own actions of love and mercy?
2. What is one realistic New Year's resolution you can make this year that will help you adopt the attitude of mercy? What are some things you can do that could help you stay on track?

in keeping this resolution throughout the year?