



Priestly People

WE ALL ARE THE PRIESTLY PEOPLE OF GOD. TOGETHER, WE ARE LEADERS IN RESPONDING TO THE EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF PRIESTS AND BROTHERS.

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MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER



The Year of MERCY

Pope Francis declared that the Universal Catholic Church observe a Jubilee Year of Mercy from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016.

During this past Year of Mercy, the Servants of the Paraclete have offered reflections on a number of topics and issues related to MERCY.

This final issue commemorating the Year of Mercy is dedicated to a review of how Mercy is included in so many ways in our daily lives and practices.

These holy years are filled with special celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversion and repentance, and the opportunity to experience God's grace through the sacraments, especially confession.

We commit ourselves to continuing MERCY in every aspect of our lives!

Other Ways to Be MERCIFUL!

1. Have mercy on ourselves. When we make a mistake, we regret it. Our self-esteem shrivels and we feel bad. Sometimes we keep flogging ourselves for our wrongdoing. Dwelling on it casts a black cloud over our days and can even make us ill. Mercy relieves suffering. The Christian thing to do is to forgive ourselves and forget it. As song in the movie *Frozen* urges, “Let it go!” After all, God forgives us. We can also be merciful to ourselves by not being over-demanding. When faced with a decision like whether to take a day off, indulge in a snack, or go to a movie, we might imagine that a friend is in our position: What would we advise him or her?

2. Stop habits that annoy others. I suppose it’s only human to do things that irk others, especially those with whom we live. Maybe we crack our knuckles,

leave dishes in the sink, or drive too fast. These habits raise others’ blood pressure or at least make them uncomfortable. We can have mercy on them by changing our ways, if it’s only when we’re in their presence!

3. Avoid saying “I told you so.” We disagree on many occasions. We might say that the party is on Friday, and another person might insist that it is on Saturday. When there’s been a disagreement and we’ve been proved right, it’s tempting to say “I told you so” and gloat. Likewise, we might predict that something will happen if the other person acts in a certain way. (How often parents say things like, “Stop running. Someone’s going to get hurt” and then someone is.) The other person is unhappy to be wrong to begin with, so rubbing it in is like putting salt in their wounds.

4. Offer help. When someone is in a pickle or is need of a helping hand, it’s an act of mercy to assist them. Recall how grateful you were when someone changed a flat tire for you or gave you advice for a project you had undertaken. It’s an act of mercy to take time to help someone even if you get nothing in return except the warm feeling that comes from doing a kind deed.

5. Don’t bring up old failings. When someone has done something wrong, avoid reminding him or her of it over and over. All but one of the apostles deserted Jesus when he was arrested, but when he appeared to them as the risen Lord, he didn’t bring this up. He just said, “Peace,” even to Peter.

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Closing scripture reading for the Year of Mercy

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said,
“He saved others, let him save himself
if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God.”
Even the soldiers jeered at him.
As they approached to offer him wine they called out,
“If you are King of the Jews, save yourself.”
Above him there was an inscription that read,
“This is the King of the Jews.”

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,
“Are you not the Christ?
Save yourself and us.”

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,
“Have you no fear of God,
for you are subject to the same condemnation?
And indeed, we have been condemned justly,
for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,
but this man has done nothing criminal.”
Then he said,
“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
He replied to him,
“Amen, I say to you,
The ultimate gift – MERCY!

Where In Scripture Do We Learn About Mercy?

Jesus’ message of mercy shines all through the Gospels, challenging society and the law to see the divine justice present in mercy. His greatest parables tell of an ungrateful steward forgiven of his debts, who tragically fails to show the same forgiveness to his debtors (Matthew 18:21–35); of a wasteful son who carelessly spends his father’s inheritance, only to be embraced by his father when he penitently returns home (Luke 15:11–32). In his ministry, the Lord reached out to the hated tax collector (Luke 19:1–10) and rescued the accused adulteress (John 8:2–11), reconciling them with society and with God—and with themselves. This is our calling.

How Did You Participate in the Jubilee Year of Mercy?

The Year of Mercy was for all of us. To deliver God’s mercy, we must first seek to fully experience it ourselves. This can be done by renewing ourselves through the sacraments, particularly confession. A pilgrimage is also a special way to experience this renewal. Once we pursue and experience that mercy for ourselves, we reinforce it for others. This can be done by practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. We can also advocate for the least among us, speaking out within our families, our communities, our Church and our nations so that God’s mercy will shine brightly in the darkest corners of our world, within the darkest corners of the human spirit.



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MASS STIPENDS

We appreciate the many mass stipends that we receive. We thank you for supporting that part of our ministry. The Servants of the Paraclete receive mass stipends from our donors and they look forward to celebrating liturgy with those who offer masses for loved ones, friends and family members.

Thank you for supporting our Mass Stipend Ministry!

Name of the person to be remembered in a mass celebrated by a Servant of the Paraclete

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Please send an acknowledgement card on my behalf to:

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