

**OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT SESSION #2-"MERCY" DEACON DON GROSSNICKLE**

**1. OPENING PRAYER: Activity One: Mercy as an offering of What? to Whom? Why?- Turn to the person next and address those ?**

<p>1. We rise again from ashes, from the good we've failed to do. We rise again from ashes, to create ourselves anew. If all our world is ashes, then must our lives be true, An offering of ashes, An offering to You. --&gt; --&gt;</p>	<p>2. We offer You our failures, we offer You attempts; The gifts not fully given, the dreams not fully dreamt. Give our stumblings direction, give our visions wider view, An offering of ashes, An offering to You. --&gt; --&gt;</p>	<p>3. Then rise again from ashes, let healing come to pain; Though spring has turned to winter, and sunshine turned to rain. The rain we'll use for growing, and create the world anew, From an offering of ashes, An offering to You. --&gt; --&gt;</p>	<p>4. Thanks be to the Father, who made us like Himself. ... Thanks be to His Son, who saved us by His death. ... Thanks be to the Spirit, who creates the world anew, From an offering of ashes, An offering to You</p>
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**2. St Peter and the Pearly Gates I -Phil-Point?**

**Why joke about mercy? Is pleading for mercy to our earthly mother and father-similar to seeking mercy from God?**

**3.INPUT-Increase our awareness in Lent 2020--Why does mass begin with Kyrie?**

Is it any accident that the official liturgy begins with *Kyrie, Eleison*? It is the most common Christian short prayer, which is some form of "Have mercy on me!" In time, I have come to see how important this prayer is. It is at the heart of the classic Jesus Prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner," which the Eastern monks recited nonstop whenever possible. This is not a self-demeaning prayer, nor a self-defeating prayer, nor is it a disempowering prayer. Relying upon mercy, in fact, protects you from the arrogance and pride that wants to judge others, even in your mind. It situates you in freedom from any sense of your own sufficiency or superiority, and affirms a non-need to justify yourself, and thus keeps your heart open for others and for God. It is basically a prayer for detachment from the self, both mind and heart, and its endless games of self-validation. "Lord, have mercy" seeks validation only from God and not from any inner or outer attempts to be worthy, independently "good," or not-in-need-of-mercy. Note that when you do not stand under the mercy, your mind almost certainly does one or all of three things: plays the victim, accuses others, or falsely exalts itself. When you honestly ask for mercy, you make all three of these responses unnecessary and, in a way, impossible.

**4.. Mercy and suffering-Peter Odon Reflection--.Buzz- Is the Lord kind and merciful, slow to anger, rich in kindness? Even when things go wrong?**

**5. What role does Mercy play in your relationship with God?**

*A man died and approached the Pearly Gates. St. Peter told him heaven was getting crowded so he had to test people with the point system. If he got to 100 points he could enter. The man told Peter that he gave to the poor. Peter marked him down for 3 points. The man thought again, then said that he tithed. Peter added one point. The man, desperately searching his memory, finally said that he never cussed. Peter added 1/2 a point. By now the man got very frustrated and said that at this rate he could only get in by the grace of God. Peter replied, come on in.*

**6.. ACTIVITY:** *In his message for Lent 2016, Pope Francis gives us this focus for our Lenten journey: **Buzz: Can we repay mercy?** "God's **mercy** transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever-new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbor and to devote ourselves to what the Church's tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged."*

**7. The Catechism of the Catholic Church: (Part Three: Life in Christ) 2447.** *"The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.*

## ADDITIONAL REFLECTIONS: HOMEWORK 2020 VISIONING

### **1. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN CONNECTION TO THE WORD: MERCY AND PERSONAL THEOLOGY OF THE CONCEPT?**

DR. ALLEN HUNT. <https://dynamiccatholic.com/beautiful-mercy-program/reflections/what-does-mercy-mean>

"It wasn't until recently, when I heard a priest's homily about mercy, that I finally had a concrete definition to apply to my thoughts and actions in daily living. This priest broke down the Latin word for mercy, which is *misericordia*, derived from the two words *miserere* ("pity" or "misery") and *cor*("heart").

He then proceeded to say that when we ask for God's mercy, we are essentially asking him to relieve us of a heart that is in misery. And our hearts can be in a state of misery not just from sin, but from the deep hurt caused by a broken relationship with a family member, from the suffering of infertility, from the pain of a physical or mental illness, from losing a job, from being betrayed or abandoned, from spiritual or physical poverty, and so on.

Now when I think about mercy as "relieving someone from a heart of misery," I realize that I've experienced God's mercy *much* more than I could ever count. And I've also realized that I, in turn, have given mercy to others in more ways than just by forgiving someone who has wronged me.

### **2. WHAT ABOUT: REPEATING THE PSALM: THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER, RICH IN KINDNESS, .....IF THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL WHAT GAIN IS THAT FOR YOU?**

SO, IF THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL TO YOU? WHAT CHANGE MIGHT THAT MAKE IN YOU?

### **3. THINK MORE ABOUT TIMES WHEN MERCY HAS BEEN GRANTED TO YOU? WHAT WAS THE IMPACT?**

4. DID YOU RECEIVE MERCY FROM YOUR MOTHER OR FATHER? **WHAT DID YOU** FEEL ABOUT THEM AS GRANTORS OF MERCY? AND FEELING INSIDE YOURSELF AFTER RECEIVING THIS GIFT? IS THIS WITH PARENTS, OR FOR THAT MATTER WITH ANY OTHER?,- LIKE OUR IDEAL MERCIFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?