



Extraordinary JUBILEE OF MERCY

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Pope Francis' Jubilee Prayer of Mercy

- ▶ *Lord Jesus Christ,*
- ▶ *you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,*
- ▶ *and have told us that whoever sees you sees him.*
- ▶ *Show us your face and we will be saved.*
- ▶ *Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew*
- ▶ *from being enslaved by money;*
- ▶ *the adulteress and Magdalene*
- ▶ *from seeking happiness only in created things;*
- ▶ *made Peter weep after his betrayal,*
- ▶ *and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.*
- ▶ *Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us,*
- ▶ *the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:*
- ▶ *"If you knew the gift of God!"*

Pope Francis' Jubilee Prayer of Mercy

- ▶ *You are the visible face of the invisible Father,*
- ▶ *of the God who manifests his power*
- ▶ *above all by forgiveness and mercy:*
- ▶ *let the Church be your visible face in the world,*
- ▶ *its Lord risen and glorified.*
- ▶ *You willed that your ministers*
- ▶ *would also be clothed in weakness*
- ▶ *in order that they may feel compassion*
- ▶ *for those in ignorance and error:*
- ▶ *let everyone who approaches them*
- ▶ *feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.*

Pope Francis' Jubilee Prayer of Mercy

- ▶ *Send your Spirit and consecrate*
- ▶ *every one of us with its anointing,*
- ▶ *so that the Jubilee of Mercy*
- ▶ *may be a year of grace from the Lord,*
- ▶ *and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm,*
- ▶ *may bring good news to the poor,*
- ▶ *proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,*
- ▶ *and restore sight to the blind.*
- ▶ *We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.*

Parish Day of Reflection on Mercy

- ▶ Welcome & Introduction
- ▶ What is the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy?
 - ▶ God's Mercy in the Old Testament
 - ▶ LUNCH
 - ▶ God's Mercy in the New Testament
- ▶ How can we be merciful like the Father?

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

- ▶ The Year lasts from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8), 2015 to the Feast of Christ the King (November 20), 2016.
- ▶ Like previous jubilees, it is seen by the Church as a period for remission of sins and universal pardon focusing particularly on God's forgiveness and mercy.
- ▶ It is an *extraordinary* Jubilee because it had not been predetermined long before; usually ordinary jubilees take place every 25 years.



Mercy



- ▶ The disposition to be kind and forgiving. Founded on compassion, mercy differs from compassion or the feeling of sympathy in putting this feeling into practice with a readiness to assist. It is therefore the ready willingness to help anyone in need, especially in need of pardon or reconciliation. (Catholic Dictionary)
- ▶ *The logo represents Jesus taking on his shoulders the lost and the strayed. He carries us in our weakness to His Father's home.*

Mercy



- ▶ *"Mercy is the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers & sisters on the path of life."*
- ▶ *"Mercy is the bridge that connects God with man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness"*

Mercy & Justice

- ▶ Justice : “Merited reward or punishment”
- ▶ So does mercy undermine justice?
- ▶ No – mercy “precedes & surpasses the Law without excusing its demands”
- ▶ Mercy doesn’t suppress the Law but “brings it to perfection”
- ▶ “God does not deny justice but surpasses it “
- ▶ *Guide to the Year of Mercy*



A Sign



- ▶ “The mercy of God is poured out upon us, making us just and giving us peace. This is a time for the Church to rediscover the meaning of the mission entrusted to her by the Lord on the day of Easter: to be a sign and an instrument of the Father’s mercy.” (Pope Francis)
- ▶ “Peace remains the desire of so many people who suffer unprecedented violence of discrimination and death simply because they bear the name ‘Christian’.”

Healing Wounds

- ▶ These signs of God's tenderness are especially offered to the suffering, the alone, the abandoned, and those "without hope of being pardoned or feeling the Father's love."
- ▶ "It is the favourable time to heal wounds," he stressed, "a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation."



The Old Testament & Mercy



A Merciful Old Testament God?

- ▶ Do you think of the God of the Old Testament as Merciful?
- ▶ Or do you see Him as more primitive, angry and prone to judgement than the compassionate Father revealed by Jesus ?
- ▶ The Old Testament has over 90 references to battles, skirmishes & sieges. It can seem rather violent!



Old & New Testaments

- ▶ The Old Testament records the Jews' struggles to make sense of life & to enter into a relationship with God.
- ▶ It shows how He is moved by compassion to care for His People & His frustration at their behaviour.
- ▶ "In the Old Testament the New is hidden and in the New testament the Old is laid open." (St Augustine)



46 Old Testament Books

- ▶ **Pentateuch:** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- ▶ **Historical books:** Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees
- ▶ **Sapiential books:** Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Wisdom, Sirach
- ▶ **Prophetic books:** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

Old Testament Timeline

- ▶ ? Creation, Adam & Eve, Noah & the Great Flood, Tower of Babel
- ▶ c2000-1800 BC : Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
- ▶ c1700 BC : Joseph
- ▶ 1280 BC : Moses & the Exodus
- ▶ c1050-950 BC : Saul, David & Solomon
- ▶ Two Kingdoms : North (Israel) & Assyrian exile (722 BC) and South (Judah)
Babylonian exile 605- 587 BC
- ▶ 538-444 BC : Judah returns
- ▶ 63 BC : Pompey captures Jerusalem

Wisdom (12 : 18-19)

- ▶ “Though You are the master of might, You judge with clemency and with much lenience. You govern us. You taught Your People by these deeds, that those who are righteous must be kind and You gave Your children reason to hope that You would allow them to repent of their sins.”



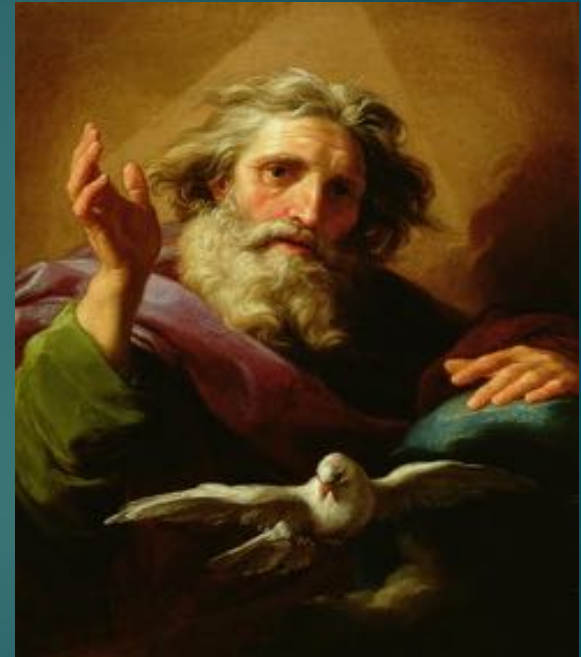
Isaiah 61 : 1-2



- ▶ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted, He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to those in captivity. To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”

Micah 7 : 18-19

- ▶ “You, O Lord, are a God who takes away iniquity and pardons sin, who does not hold your anger for ever but are pleased to show mercy. You, O Lord, will return to us and have pity on Your people. You will trample down our sins and toss them into the depths of the sea.”





- ▶ O give thanks to the LORD; for He is good: for His mercy endures for ever
- ▶ To Him who by wisdom made the heavens: for His mercy endures for ever
- ▶ To Him who smote Egypt in their firstborn: for His mercy endures for ever
- ▶ And brought out Israel from among them: for His mercy endures for ever
- ▶ To Him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endures for ever
- ▶ And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for His mercy endures for ever
- ▶ But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for His mercy endures for ever

Psalm 136

Psalm 136



- ▶ To Him who led his people through the wilderness: for His mercy endures for ever
- ▶ To Him who smote great kings: for His mercy endures for ever
- ▶ And gave their land for a heritage: for His mercy endures for ever
- ▶ And has redeemed us from our enemies: for His mercy endures for ever
- ▶ O give thanks to the God of heaven: for His mercy endures for ever.

Proverbs



- ▶ The Book of Proverbs raises questions of values, moral behaviour, the meaning of human life, and right conduct.
- ▶ “Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about your neck; write them upon the table of your heart: So shall you find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.” (3: 3-4)
- ▶ “He that despises his neighbour sins: but he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.” (14:21)
- ▶ “He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy.” (28:13)

Jonah

- ▶ Jonah tries to escape God's commission to call on the people of Ninevah to repent
- ▶ He is disappointed that they do repent and the city is saved
- ▶ He is angry that God destroys the tree shading him while he is waiting for its destruction
- ▶ God says : "Should I not pity Ninevah, that great city of more than 120,000 persons who cannot discern their right hand from their left?"



Job



- ▶ Addresses the theme of God's justice & mercy in the face of human suffering
- ▶ God gives Satan permission to take Job's wealth and kill all of his children and servants but Job nonetheless praises God
- ▶ Job asks : Where is wisdom to be found? He concludes that it has been hidden from man
- ▶ His friends argue that his suffering is a punishment for sin
- ▶ God contrasts Job's weakness with divine wisdom and omnipotence
- ▶ Job repents and is restored to health, riches and family by a merciful God

Reflection

- ▶ Reflect on what these passages from the Old Testament tells us of God's mercy



Adam & Eve

- ▶ God created man in His image. In the divine image He created him. Male & female he created them. God blessed them, saying to them : "Be fertile and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue it."
- ▶ But Adam & Eve eat of the forbidden fruit
- ▶ "And He said, Who told thee that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded you not to eat? "(Genesis 3.11)

*Adam & Eve driven from Paradise :
James Tissot*



- ▶ And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.
- ▶ Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark
- ▶ For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth.
- ▶ Never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

(Genesis 6-9)



Noah

Abraham & Isaac



- ▶ Sarah was 90 when she gave birth to Isaac
- ▶ Just as Abraham was about to sacrifice his son, he was interrupted by "the angel of the Lord", and he saw behind him a "ram caught in a thicket by his horns", which he sacrificed instead of his son.
- ▶ For his obedience, Abraham received another promise of numerous descendants and abundant prosperity

- ▶ God sent Moses to free His People
- ▶ Following the Ten Plagues, Pharaoh freed the Israelites. Moses held out his staff and the Red Sea was parted by God.
- ▶ Once the Israelites had crossed, the sea closed again, drowning the whole of the Egyptian army.
- ▶ Moses said to Israel : "When you turn to the Lord your God & obey His voice (for He is a merciful God) He will not forsake you nor destroy you nor forget the Covenant with your fathers."



Moses & Exodus

King David



- ▶ Defeats Goliath
- ▶ Succeeds Saul after his death at battle of Mt. Gilboa
- ▶ Many victories & makes Jerusalem his capital
- ▶ But adultery with Bathsheba & death of Uriah displeases God
- ▶ “The sword shall never depart from your House”
- ▶ His son, Absalom, rebels & is killed

- ▶ Built the first Temple in Jerusalem
- ▶ Chose Wisdom as gift from God
- ▶ Great wealth
- ▶ 700 wives & 300 concubines : turned him from the true God
- ▶ Punished by split of his kingdom under his son, Rehoboam & exile for both kingdoms



King Solomon

Reflection

- ▶ How do these people & events in the Old Testament reveal God's mercy?

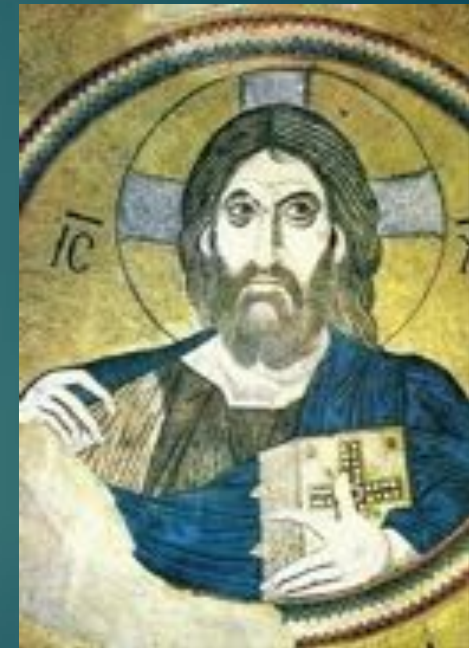


Shared Lunch!



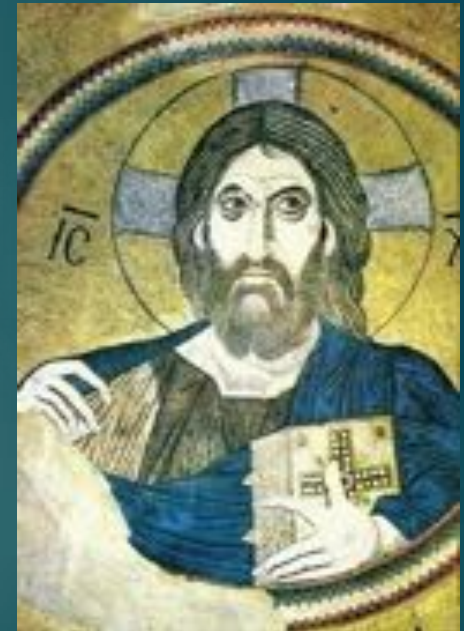
The New Testament

- ▶ What in the New Testament most reveals God's mercy?



God's Mercy in the New Testament

- ▶ “The most obvious example of God's merciful love was shown to us in the Paschal Mystery of Christ.
- ▶ The culmination of this Paschal Mystery, following the suffering and Death of Christ, is His Resurrection, which is our assurance that Christ triumphs over death.
- ▶ We also rejoice that, through our faith and participation in the sacraments, we can share in Christ's triumph as God extends his salvific mercy toward us”.
- ▶ *Pope Francis*



The Resurrection



- ▶ "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures".
- ▶ Through His Resurrection, He opens the way to our resurrection and to a new life for all : "For, as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Cor 15:22)

The Sermon on the Mount



- ▶ The longest piece of teaching from Jesus in the New Testament
- ▶ It includes some of the best known teachings of Jesus, such as the Beatitudes, and the Lord's Prayer.
- ▶ The Beatitudes present a new set of ideals that focus on love and humility rather than force and exaction; they echo the highest ideals of Jesus' teachings on spirituality and compassion
- ▶ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy (Mat.5:7)
- ▶ "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"

The Sermon on the Plain

- ▶ Love your enemies and turn the other cheek (Luke 6:27–36)
- ▶ Treat others the way you want to be treated (6:31)
- ▶ Don't judge and you won't be judged, don't condemn and you won't be condemned, forgive and you will be forgiven, give and you will receive (6:37–38)
- ▶ Remove the log from your own eye before attending to the splinter in your friend's (6:40b–42)





- ▶ A certain lawyer asks Jesus : "Who is my neighbour?"
- ▶ Jesus says : "A traveller is stripped of clothing, beaten, and left half dead along the road.
- ▶ First a priest and then a Levite come by, but both avoid the man. Finally, a Samaritan comes by. Samaritans & Jews generally despised each other, but the Samaritan helps the injured man.
- ▶ "So who is the neighbour?" He asks the lawyer.
- ▶ "He who showed mercy on him."
- ▶ Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Good Samaritan

- ▶ The younger son returns home, having wasted his inheritance, intending to beg his father to be made one of his hired servants
- ▶ But his father welcomes him back as his son and holds a feast to celebrate his return
- ▶ The older son refuses to participate, stating that in all the time he has worked for the father, he never disobeyed him; yet, he did not even receive a goat to celebrate with his friends
- ▶ The father reminds him that he has always been with him and everything he has belongs to the older son
- ▶ But, they should still celebrate the return of the younger son because "Your brother here was lost and is found" (Luke 15:24)



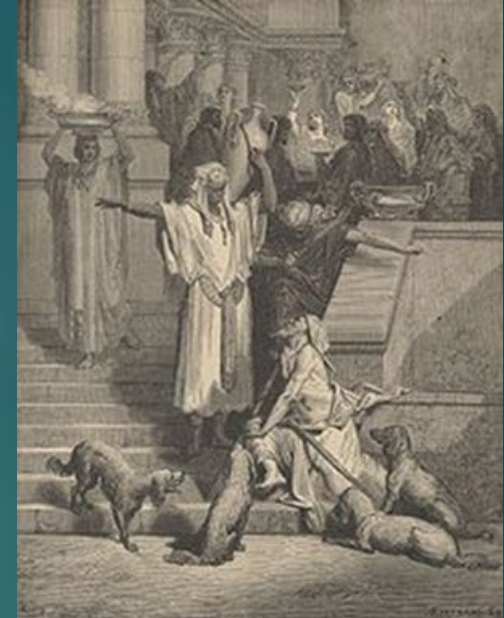
The Prodigal Son

- ▶ The leper said : "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean?"
- ▶ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"
- ▶ Instantly he was cured of his leprosy.
- ▶ Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them".



Healing a Leper

- ▶ When Mary laments that Jesus is too late to save Lazarus, He says : "I am the Resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die".



Raising of Lazarus

- ▶ 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?'
- ▶ 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.'
- ▶ 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?'
- ▶ 'No one, sir.'
- ▶ 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'
- ▶ *John 7:53 – 8.11*



The Woman Taken in Adultery



- ▶ “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat 16:18)
- ▶ "Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven".

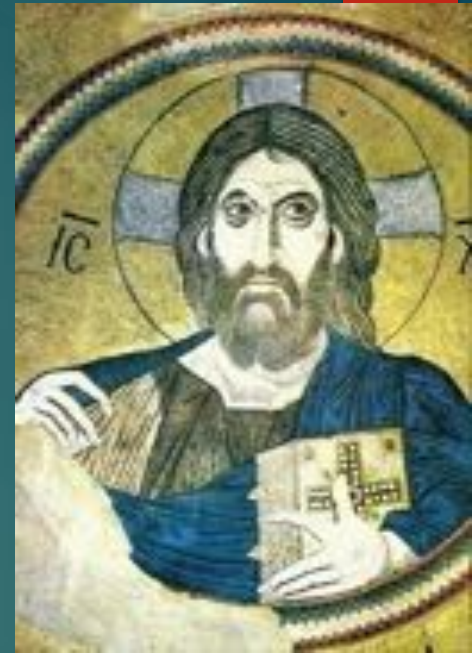
Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Last Supper : the Eucharist

- ▶ He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you: *this do in remembrance of Me.*'
- ▶ And the cup in like manner after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, even that which is poured out for you.'
- ▶ (Luke 22:19-20)



- ▶ Other examples of God's mercy in the New Testament?



Reflection

How can we be merciful like the Father?

- ▶ As a Church community?
- ▶ As individual believers?



Mercy & the Church

- ▶ Church exists not to condemn people, but to bring us God's mercy
- ▶ Her pastoral activity must be infused with compassion
- ▶ Like a field hospital or mobile A&E, which goes wherever it's needed



Called to show Mercy

- ▶ Mercy is the freely offered grace of the Father's forgiveness
- ▶ It is an essential characteristic of his followers, too
- ▶ We are called to show mercy because it has been shown to us
- ▶ “Do not let the sun go down on your anger” (Ephesians 4)
- ▶ Open our eyes & hearts to those on the outer fringes of society



Apostolate of the Ear

- ▶ Humanity is deeply wounded by poverty, social exclusion & relativism; sin is a wound that needs healing
- ▶ We need to be listened to. Listening, not judging; compassion, not just the Law
- ▶ If you can't talk to your brother about sins & mistakes, how can you talk to God?
- ▶ In Confession, the priest acts "in persona Christi". It should not be a torture chamber
- ▶ Christ's example favours the one being judged. "Nor do I condemn you..."



Starting Again

- ▶ God gives his mercy, as long as you want to receive it.
- ▶ Don't despair that we can't be forgiven, or we end up licking wounds which cannot heal.
- ▶ A tiny step is all it takes. We just need to take our condition seriously.
- ▶ It is always possible to start again!



Corporal works of Mercy

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked
4. Shelter the traveller
5. Comfort the sick
6. Visit the imprisoned
7. Bury the dead



Spiritual works of Mercy



1. Counsel the doubtful
2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Admonish sinners
4. Comfort the afflicted
5. Forgive offences
6. Bear patiently those who do us ill
7. Pray for the living and the dead

How can we be merciful like the Father?

- ▶ As a Church community?
- ▶ As individual believers?



Concluding Prayer

- ▶ *We have been given eyes to see and ears to listen
We have been given tongues ... to speak for the innocent... and the guilty,
To praise, encourage and support,
To proclaim in season and out, the news that is good news.*
- ▶ *We have been given hands to reach out and strengthen the fearful,
To protect the weak and lift up the fallen,
To embrace the dying,
To share burdens and wipe away tears...
To build up, not to tear down,
To fan the embers not to quench the smouldering wick,
To bless, not to strike,
To give not to withhold.*

Concluding Prayer

- ▶ *We have been given minds to judge... ourselves, not others,
Situations, not motives;
To seek solutions, not excuses, justice not expediency;
To discern the essential from the merely desirable,
The good from the less good and the less good from the bad...
We have been given hearts to feel,
To interpret the hidden meanings beneath the words spoken,
To open doors closed by despair,
To discover the best in others and set it free,
To understand and to forgive... or to simply forgive...
To comfort the sorrowful, to love and thereby heal the scars*

Concluding Prayer

- ▶ *We have been given all these things so that people around us
May neither doubt nor forget God's presence among them;
That in our touch, our words, our actions,
God may touch and speak and act and others, in turn,
may sense the presence of God when we pass by, and
seeing us know with little effort
That they can catch a glimpse of God.*
- ▶ Amen.