

# JANUARY CONTEMPLATION

*Blood of Christ, peace and tenderness of hearts, have mercy on us.*

## Opening Hymn

*Eucharistic Exposition*

### Leader:

May this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament be a precious opportunity to grow in awareness of the incomparable treasure which Christ has entrusted to his Church.

### *Silent Reflection*

*We pray that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord.*

## Prayer for the Year of Mercy

### All:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy. May your church, with renewed enthusiasm, bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

### Scripture Reading:

*(Hebrews 11: 1-4,7-8,13)*

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.

The Word of the Lord.

*All: Thanks be to God.*

## Responsorial Psalm

*(Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11)*

*Response: You are my inheritance, O Lord.*

Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing.

You guard all that is mine.

The land you have given me is a pleasant land.

What a wonderful inheritance! *R/.*

I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me.

I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.

My body rests in safety. *R/.*

For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.

You will show me the way of life,

granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever. *R/.*

## Glory Be...

*January 2016*

## Reflection

(Catechism, #1465)

When he celebrates the sacrament of Penance, the priest is fulfilling the ministry of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost sheep, of the Good Samaritan who binds up wounds, of the Father who awaits the prodigal son and welcomes him on his return, and of the just and impartial judge whose judgment is both just and merciful. The priest is the sign and the instrument of God's merciful love for the sinner.

### Prayer to be Merciful to Others

*St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (Diary, 163)*

**All:** O Lord, I want to be completely transformed into Your mercy and to be Your living reflection. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of Your unfathomable mercy, pass through my heart and soul to my neighbor.

Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbors' souls and come to their rescue. May Your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me. Amen.

### *Silent Reflection*

*Let us keep silence before God – silent within ourselves – that our hearts and ears may be open.*

## Gospel

(Matt 20:29-34)

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him. And two blind men sitting by the road, hearing that Jesus was passing by, cried out, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” The crowd sternly told them to be quiet, but they cried out all the more, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” And Jesus stopped and called them, and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” They said to Him, “Lord, *we want* our eyes to be opened.” Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Meditation

John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia*, 2

### HE WHO SEES ME SEES THE FATHER.

(John 14:9)

#### The Incarnation of Mercy

The truth, revealed in Christ, about God the “Father of mercies,” (2 Cor. 1:3) enables us to “see” Him as particularly close to man, especially when man is suffering, when he is under threat at the very heart of his existence and dignity. And this is why, in the situation of the Church and the world today, many individuals and groups guided by a lively sense of faith are turning, I would say almost spontaneously, to the mercy of God. They are certainly being moved to do this by Christ Himself, who through His Spirit works within human hearts. For the mystery of God the “Father of mercies” revealed by Christ becomes, in the context of today’s threats to man, as it were a unique appeal addressed to the Church.

In fact, revelation and faith teach us not only to meditate in the abstract upon the mystery of God as “Father of mercies,” but also to have recourse to that mercy in the name of Christ and in union with Him. Did not Christ say that our Father, who “sees in secret,” (Matt. 6:4, 6, 18) is always waiting for us to have recourse to Him in every need and always waiting for us to study His mystery: the mystery of the Father and His love? (cf. Luke 11:5-13)

## **Intentions**

### **Leader:**

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intentions of the Holy Father and our personal intentions:

*R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

### **All:**

Eternal Father, we offer you in union with Mary, Mother of the Redeemer of humankind, the Blood Jesus shed with love in his passion and every day is offered on the altar. In union with the Victim offered for the salvation of the world, we offer today's actions in expiation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the needs of the holy Church, and especially:

For the Holy Father's **Universal Intention:** That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice, we pray. *R/.*

For the Holy Father's **Intention for Evangelization:** That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions, we pray. *R/.*

That our country more fully embrace the culture of life, recognizing in each person the image of God Himself, we pray. *R/.*

Lord, You have promised to be with your Church always. May the Holy Spirit inspire many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, we pray. *R/.*

That all those planning pilgrimages for the Year of Mercy be joined by many faithful pilgrims to gain the indulgences of this Jubilee Year, we pray. *R/.*

For those who've asked the help of our prayers, for those who have no one to pray for them, and for the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray. *R/.*

### **Our Father...**

### *Silent Reflection*

### **Closing Prayer**

#### **All:**

Eternal God, in Whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen.

### *Benediction and Reposition*

### **Closing Hymn**