

The Announcement found in Evangelii Gaudium regarding Mercy

As an inter-congregational mission,
vision, sharing and pathways.

Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM



God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. (3)

A JOY EVER NEW, A JOY WHICH IS SHARED



A Church goes forth: Taking the first Step, being involved and supportive, bearing fruit and rejoicing

THE CHURCH'S MISSIONARY TRANSFORMATION

Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy,

- The fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy.. (24)



From the heart of the gospel



- as far as external works are concerned : “mercy is the greatest of the virtues, since all the others revolve around it and, more than this, it makes up for their deficiencies. (37)

Power of God

- This is particular to the superior virtue, as such it is proper to God to have mercy, through which his omnipotence is manifested to the greatest degree”.



Mercy seeks good of neighbor

- For St. Thomas... mercy, which overcomes the defects of our devotion and sacrifice, is the sacrifice which is most pleasing, because it is mercy which above all seeks the good of one's neighbor.



All virtues are at the service of this response of love.

THE THINGS THAT WE
LOVE TELL US WHAT WE ARE.

Thomas Aquinas

Love begins at home,
and it is not how much we do..
but how much love we put
in that action.

Mother Teresa

Via [Berthelmann.com](http://www.berthelmann.com)
photo by Gabriela Farias



Sisters respond in mercy





...“not to burden the lives of the faithful” and make our religion a form of servitude, whereas “God’s mercy has willed that we should be free.”(43)

A MISSION EMBODIED WITHIN HUMAN LIMITS

Stages of Personal Growth

- ...they need to accompany with mercy and patience the eventual stages of personal growth as these progressively occur. (44)

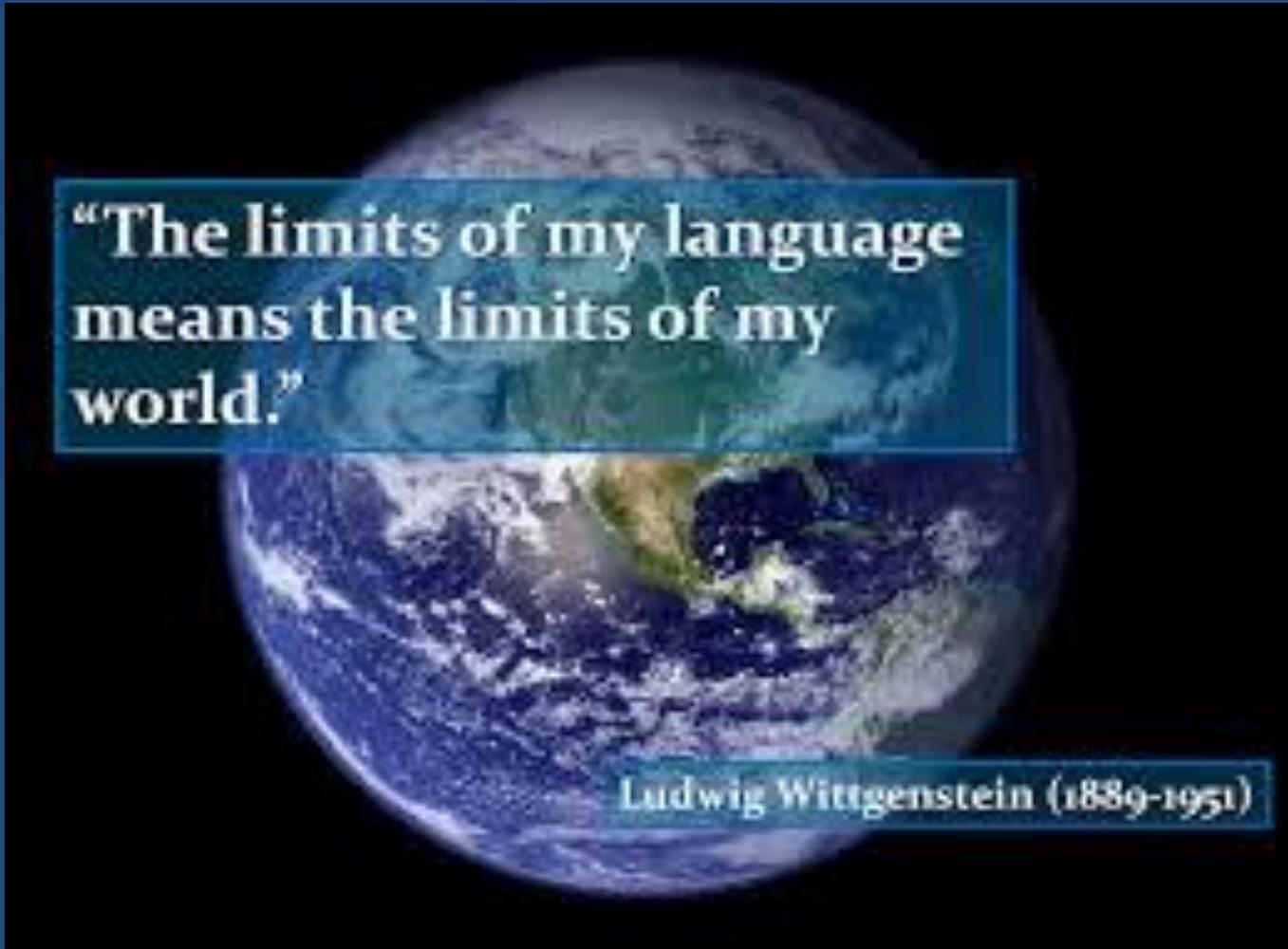


Encounter Mercy



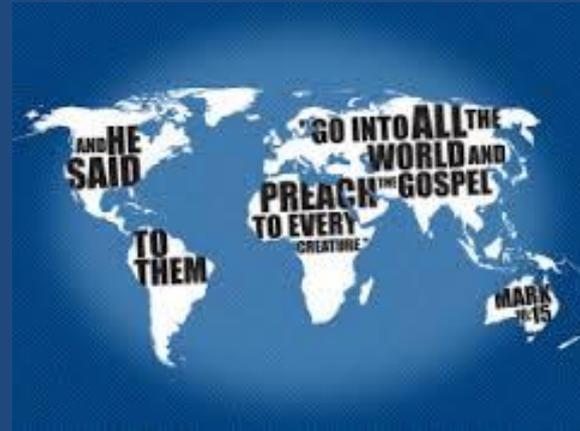
I want to remind priests that the confessional must not be a torture chamber but rather an encounter with the Lord's mercy which spurs us on to do our best. (44)

Task of evangelization operates within the limits of language and of circumstances (45)



**“The limits of my language
means the limits of my
world.”**

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951)



The entire people of God proclaims the Gospel

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

A people for everyone

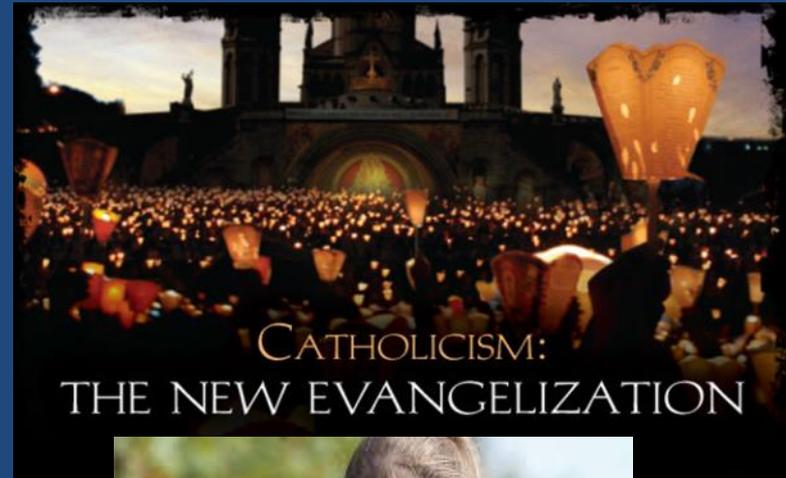
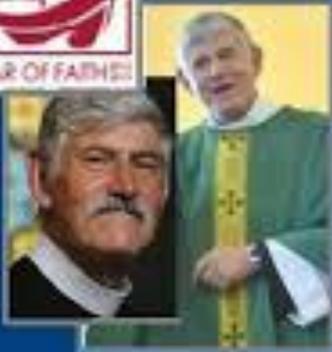
- The salvation which God offers us is the work of his mercy. (112)



Church must be a place of mercy

- ... freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel. (114)





Evangelization and deeper understanding

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Believe in Presence of Jesus

- Jesus Christ who, by his death and resurrection, reveals and communicates to us the Father's infinite mercy. (164)





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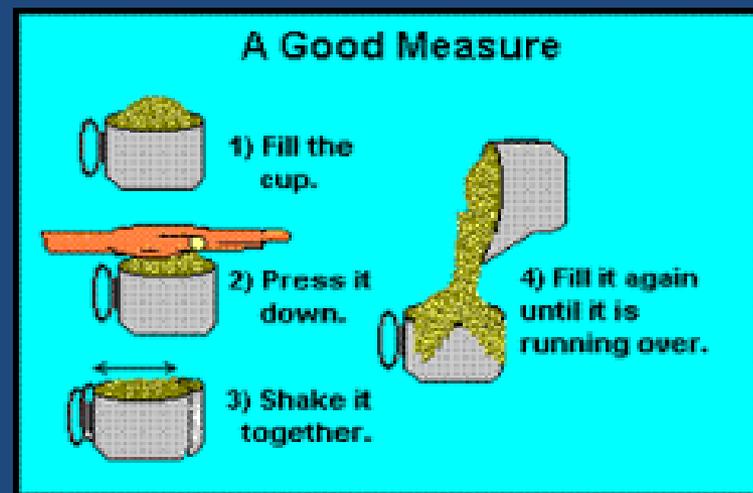
This picture was posted on Facebook by Keith Kiel

Communal and societal repercussions of the Proclamation

THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF EVANGELIZATION

Confession of faith and commitment to society

- The way we treat others has a transcendent dimension: “The measure you give will be the measure you get” (Mt 7:2). It corresponds to the mercy which God has shown us: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.



Do not judge

- ... and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned. (Lk 36-38)



Priority of going forth from ourselves to our brothers and Sisters. (179)



THE INCLUSION OF THE POOR IN SOCIETY

Mercy and Justice

- The Church, guided by the Gospel of mercy and by love for mankind, hears the cry for justice and intends to respond with all of her might. (188)

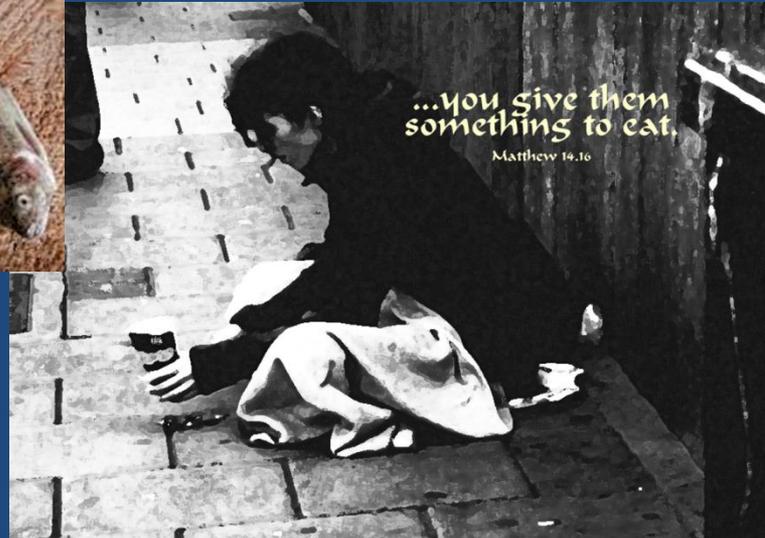


Justice and Mercy

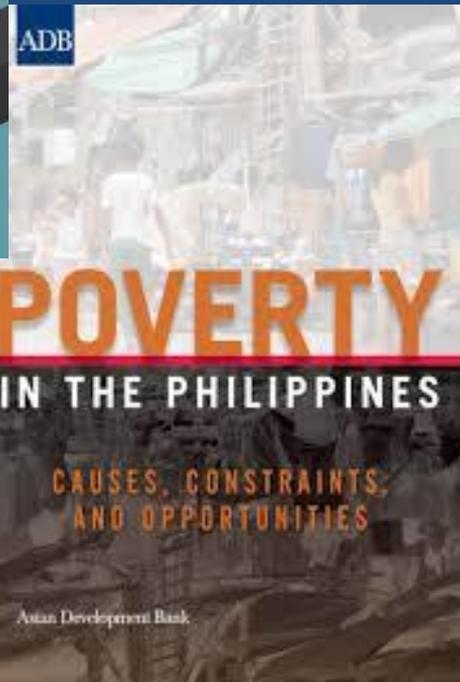
- How do we integrate our responses of Justice and Mercy
- A justice that seeks out consequences
- A justice that seeks to restore right relationships
- A justice that addresses structural change

In union with God, we hear a plea

- In this context we can understand Jesus' command to his disciples: "You yourselves give them something to eat!" (Mk 6:37) (188)



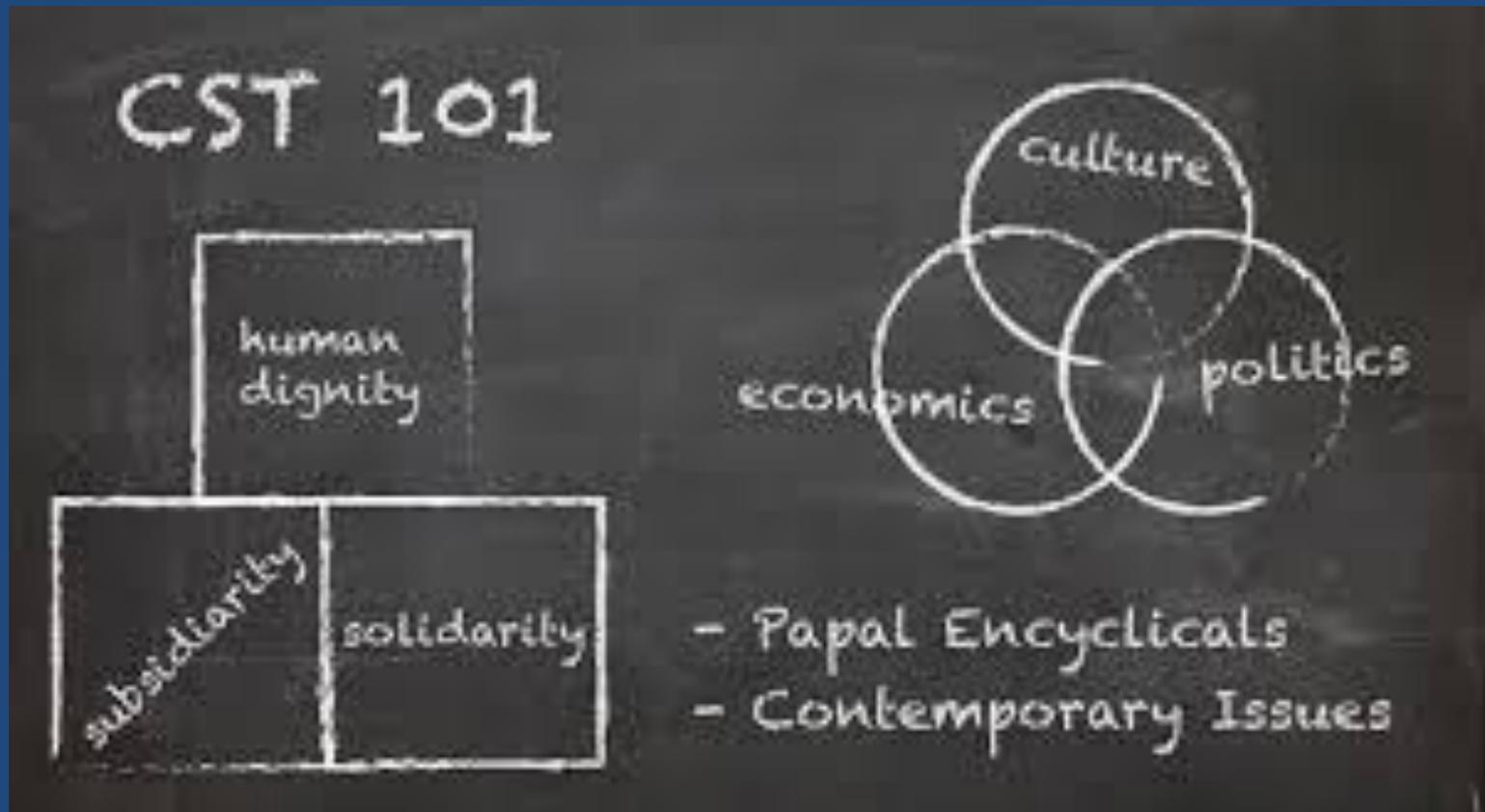
Eliminate Structural Causes of Poverty



Structural causes of Poverty



Integral Development of the poor



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Solidarity Creation of Community (188)



Priority of Life



Human
Dignity



People over appropriation of Goods by a few (188)



Pope Francis:
"Solidarity with the poor is not optional."



Fidelity to the Gospel, lest we run in vain

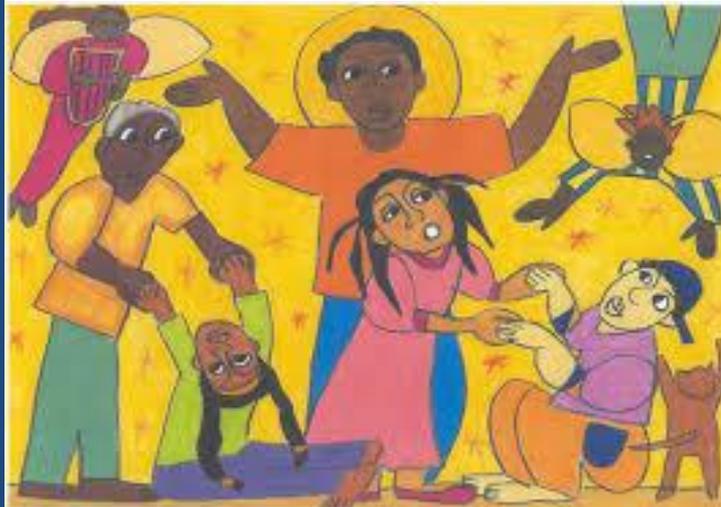
- We incarnate the duty of hearing the cry of the poor. (193)



Moved by sufferings of others



Blessed are the merciful



Our mercy will be vindicated on the day of Judgment



- The apostle James teaches : “So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.” (Jas 2:12-13).

Mercy triumphs over judgment



Break off your sins show mercy to the oppressed



Fidelity to the Gospel, lest we run in vain (cont.)

The wisdom literature sees alms giving as a concrete exercise of mercy towards those in need... (Tob 12:9). (193)



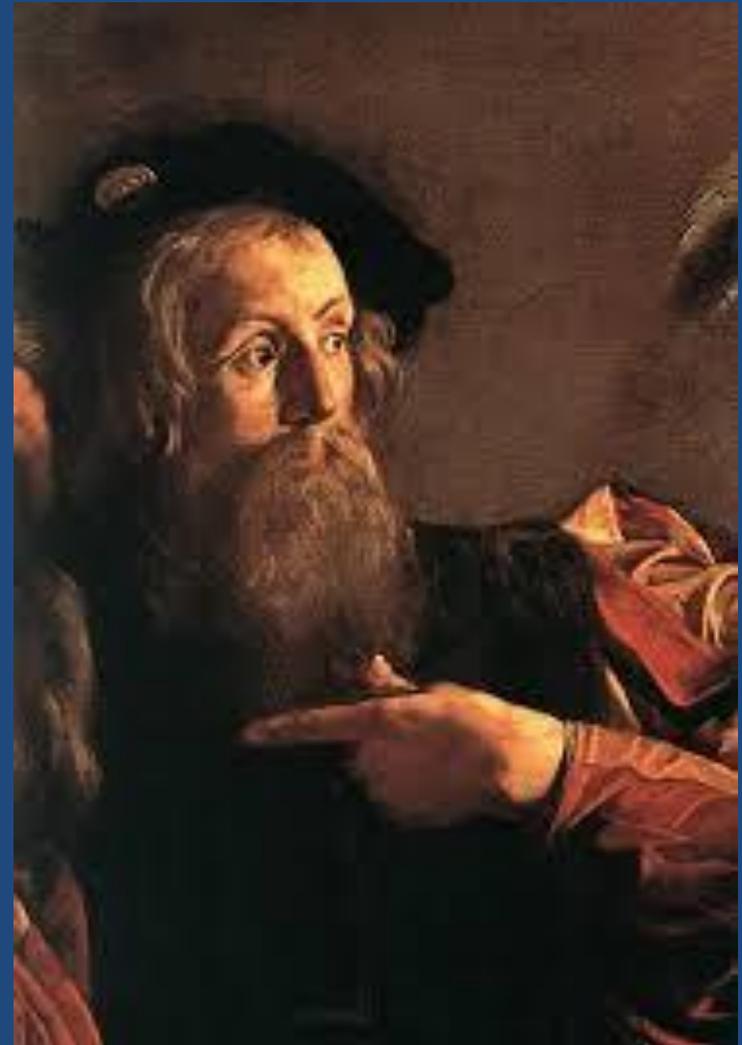
Rejoice in opportunities for mercy

Whenever we have an opportunity to perform a work of mercy, we should rejoice, ... (193)



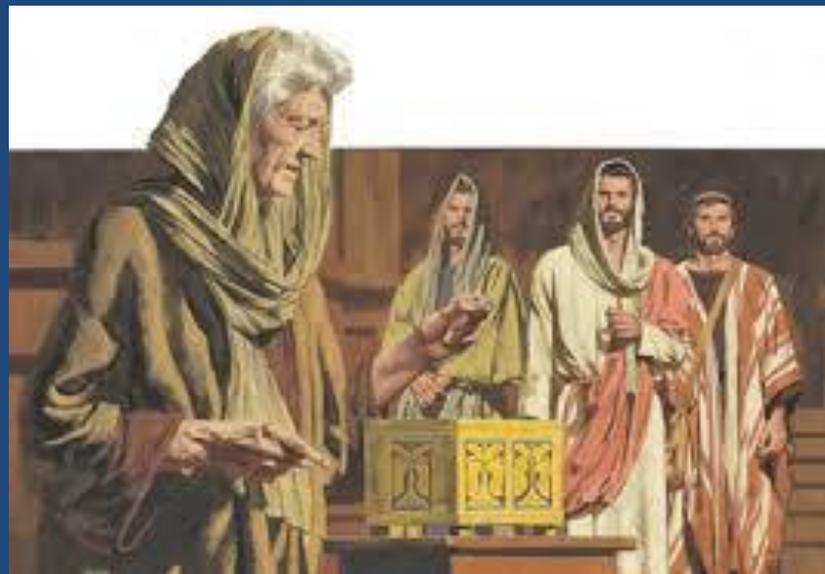
Biblical exhortations to love, ...

...to humble and generous service, to justice and mercy towards the poor. Jesus taught us the way of looking at others by his words and his actions.
(194)



The special place of the poor in God's people

When he began to preach the kingdom, crowds of the dispossessed followed him, illustrating his words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me..." (Lk 6:20) (197)



Key to heaven

He made himself one of them: “I was hungry and you gave me food to eat, to heaven (cf Mt 25:5ff). (197)

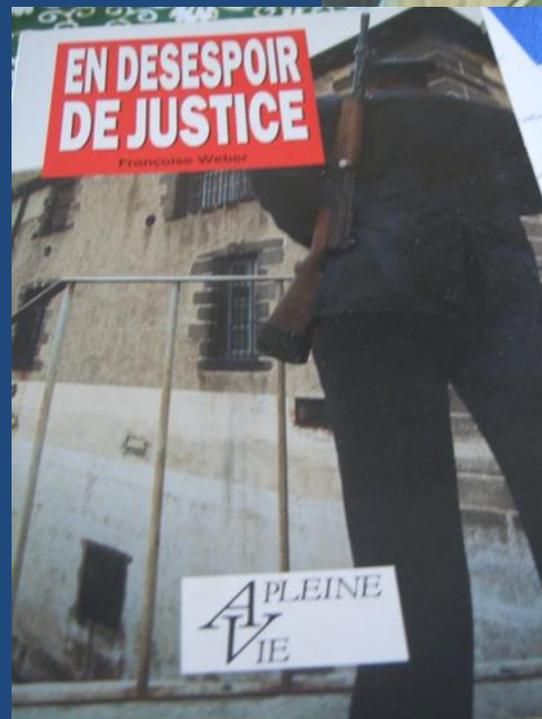


And he taught them that mercy

Towards all of these is
The key to heaven (Mt 25)



Corporal Works of Mercy



Option for the Poor

For the Church, the option for the poor is primarily a theological category... God shows the poor “his first mercy”. (198)



Concern for the vulnerable

- There are other weak and defenseless beings who are frequently at the mercy of economic interests or indiscriminate exploitation. (215)



Care for creation





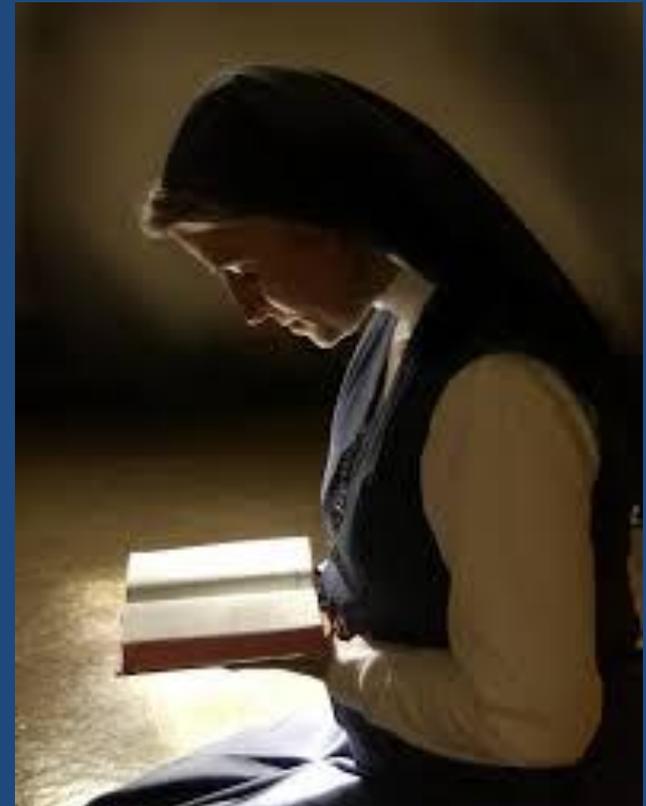
SOCIAL DIALOGUE AS A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE

Interreligious dialogue

In reference to followers of Islam.

They also acknowledge the need to respond to God with an ethical commitment and with mercy towards those most in need. (252)





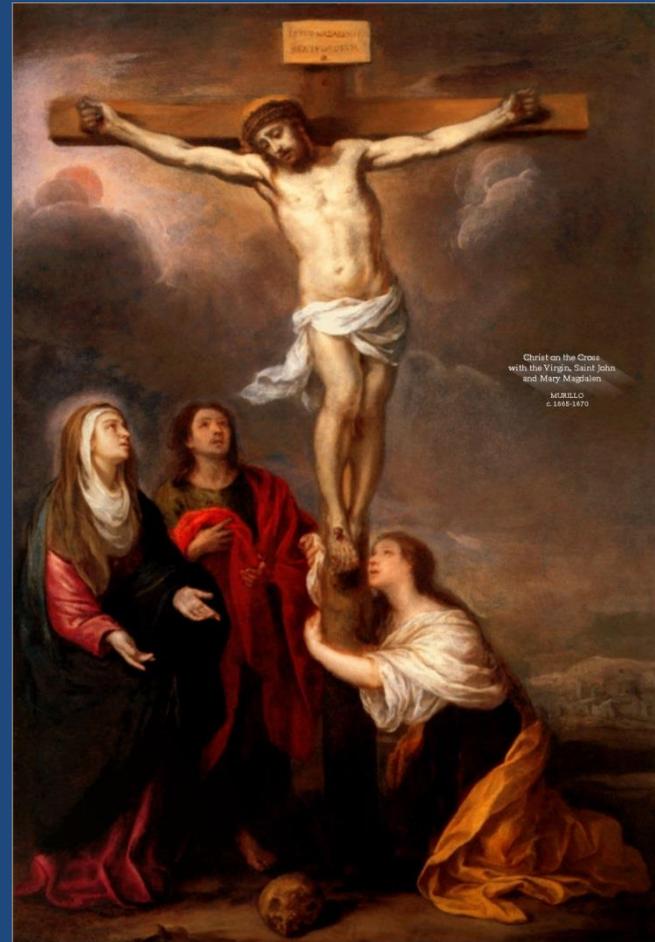
FOCUS ON JESUS
SPIRIT-FILLED EVANGELIZED

Youth and Evangelization



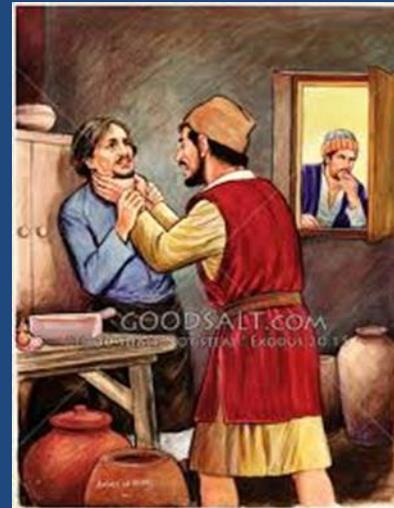
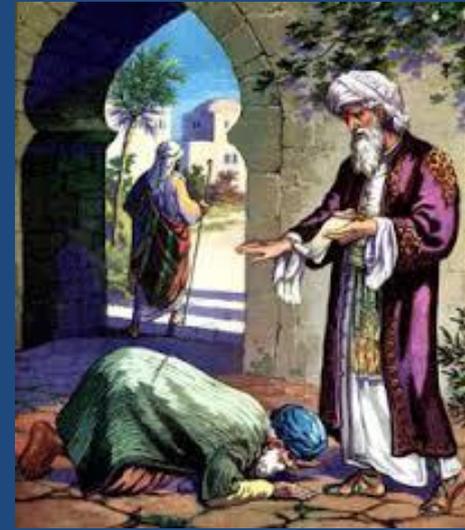
Mary, Mother of Evangelization

- On the cross, when endured in his own flesh the dramatic encounter of the sin of the world and God's mercy, he could feel at his feet the consoling presence of his mother and his friend. (285)



King decided to settle accounts

- with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; ...
- When this same servant ... (Mt 18:21-35)



Pope Francis: The Name of God is Mercy

- Jesus said he came not for those who were good but for the sinners. He did not come for the healthy, who do not need the doctor, but for the sick. For this reason, we can say that mercy is God's identity card. God of Mercy merciful God. For me, this really is the Lord's identity. (p. 9)

Identity Card



- Companion to the
- God of Mercy

Sharing and Pathways



Reflection

- 1. Think of a situation where you received mercy. Describe what it was like for you. Does any image come to mind as you share this experience?
- 2 Think of a situation where you responded to someone in mercy. Describe what it was like for you. Does any image come to mind as you share this experience?

Connections

- What is the connection between your experience of mercy and how you respond to others in mercy?

Characteristics of Mercy

- How do these responses describe mercy?
- How do these responses express pathways in our ministries?

Summary Comments from Session