

SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2016
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The people in our parish on vacation at the shore or in the mountains hopefully are very pleased. Let's also hope they have enough sun tan lotion and bug repellent with them for the great outdoors, especially at the beaches. Barbues are going strong outdoors – it helps keep the kitchen cool.

Lots of people are summer people – I count myself as one of them. We enjoy the power and awesomeness of summer. Baseball is there every day for those of us who enjoy it. This summer we'll have the Summer Olympics in Rio to watch and celebrate. We're looking forward to or talking about a vacation. We get outdoors more and enjoy the beauty of nature. Like all the four seasons which God gives us in this part of the world, we thank the Lord for the gift of summer.

We know too, that summer can be very difficult for people not in good health. The heat and humidity are a real struggle for some of our family and friends. Even as we enjoy summer, please be sensitive to people who find it hard. I say here what I remind our parish children, "Keep reading. Don't just watch television and play computer games. Be active. Be outside. Find some jobs at home to help your parents around the house." Some of this advice may be good for us adults as well.

Many of our older teens and college students are working this summer. That's good even though there may be some days when you would rather be sitting on a beach. Work hard and enjoy yourselves, too. Especially help someone who is in need. It will make you feel great. People who need your kind help are all around you. Look for them, please!

For all of us, especially as we take time to enjoy the beauty and the fullness of God's gifts of nature in summer, we pray to realize that this world, as Pope Francis emphasizes for us, is a gift from our loving God to His human family in Christ. We pray and work to recognize our responsibility as the human family to take good care of this wonderful world so that it will always be there, and even more beautiful, for the coming generations of people. We are the people who must make the world better and more beautiful because we are here. We are the world's good stewards. We don't own this world. It belongs to God. He entrusts it to us. That is our challenge!

Please ask God to keep us faithful this summer to our daily prayers, daily scripture reading and most important our weekly Mass participation whether we are at home or away on vacation. Check out www.masstimes.org for when you will be going away on weekends. Please give some of your summer slower time to God and He will bless you for it.

God bless, Father Herb

WORDS OF TITHING FROM THE PEWS:

From the pastor: Generosity is a strong sign of God's presence within us. Tithing is a bright light of generosity and trust in God. The world around us needs to see this generosity and trust in all of us. We really reflect Christ in our world.

Words on tithing from the Pews: God is taking care of my needs. I know He does this so that I can help others. I feel this is the least I can do.

Thank you for your sacrifice of Tithing!

MASS ATTENDANCE



Mass attendance for July 9/10: 1639

ELECTRONIC GIVING WITH FAITH DIRECT

Thank you for being a part of our Saint Peter the Apostle family. Everyone on our parish staff and our ministry coordinators appreciate all you do for our parish and community by sharing your God-given gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure. Your active participation in the life of our parish helps all of us to fulfill our vision and mission. This summer, I hope that you will have some quiet and restful time that includes the love, joy and peace of being with family and friends. Please also remember that our parish continues to be open for Mass, numerous activities and the Sacraments. During these summer months your generosity through *Faith Direct* can help provide the consistent resources we need to operate our parish and our ministries every week. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our own church code: **NJ745** to enroll in *Faith Direct* or call *Faith Direct* at 866-507-8757. We appreciate you considering this new way of giving.

Thank you for your prayers and continuing support for our parish family!

God Bless You,
Father Herb

SCRIPTURE READINGS JULY 8-24

MONDAY Micah 6: 1-4, 6-8
Gospel: Matthew 12: 38-42

TUESDAY Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20
Gospel: Matthew 12: 46-50

WEDNESDAY Jeremiah 1: 1, 4-10
Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-9

THURSDAY Jeremiah 2: 1-3, 7-8, 12-13
Gospel: Matthew 13: 10-17

FRIDAY Jeremiah 3: 14-17
Gospel: John 20: 1-2, 11-18

SATURDAY Jeremiah 7: 1-11
Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-30

SUNDAY Genesis 18: 20-32
Colossians 2: 12-14
Gospel: Luke 11: 1-13

SANCTUARY LAMPS/FLOWERS



You may have the Sanctuary Candles in the Church, Chapel or Adoration Chapel burn in memory of a loved one (\$10.00 donation), roses at the Tabernacle (\$10.00 donation), or flowers at the altar (\$50.00 Donation). Please call or stop into the rectory office.

July 17-23, 2016

Sanctuary Lamp in the Church is for the Special Intentions of Marie Pasquale

Sanctuary Lamp in Mary's Daily Chapel is for the Special Intentions of Marie Pasquale

Sanctuary Lamps in the Adoration Chapel are for Gregory Loff, Richard Locilento, Charles Hathaway, In Thanksgiving

Tabernacle Roses in the Church: Jean Giuffredo

MARTHA MINISTRY

FRIDAY, JULY 22 – TEAM 4

Lucille Cicitta, Dorothy Sanzone,
Jane Johnson, Christina Smith

MASSTIMES.ORG

When you go on vacation this summer or anytime, don't leave God behind. Go to www.masstimes.org, put in an address or zip code and you will come up with a list of Churches in that area and their mass schedule.

OUTREACH CORNER

A parishioner needs a ride to the doctor. If you can help, please call the Rectory at 973-334-2090.

A woman is in dire need of a car. This is a tall order, but maybe you can help. Please call the Rectory.

A woman asks that someone take her food shopping. Please call the Rectory. Thank you and God bless you!

SAINT PETER'S BOOK CLUB – AUGUST 16TH

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, August 16th, 2016 at 7:30 PM in the Church Hall. We will discuss the book *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* by Father James Martin. Coffee and dessert will be served.

**PATERSON DIOCESE MEN'S CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 15TH MEN, PLEASE SAVE THE DATE**

From 8:30AM-1:00 PM. The Conference will enhance men's spirituality in the Diocese and encourage men to be more involved in their parishes. Well-known Catholic Speakers will make presentations and the Conference will conclude with Holy Mass. Watch for more information in the coming months. Mark your calendar now. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR JULY 18-24

MONDAY, July 18 – St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
6:45AM – Maria Joseph, Carmela Johnson, Srs. Winifred Denise & Mary Lucy,
8:00AM – Charles Radice (1st Anniv.), Edward J. Tuite, Stephanie Trincanello

TUESDAY, July 19
6:45AM – People of the Parish
8:00AM – Richard Patterson, Leila Krishna, Special Intention of Marie Pasquale

WEDNESDAY, July 20 – St. Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr
6:45AM – Kathy Donovan
8:00AM – Special Intention for the Priests of the Parish

THURSDAY, July 21-St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor
6:45AM – Special Intention for the Deacons of our Parish
8:00AM – Rita & Cresenzo DeLella

FRIDAY, July 22-St. Mary Magdalene
6:45AM – Kathleen & Herbert Tillyer, Sr., Modesta & Agripino Ibarra, Annie Bugash
8:00AM – Jorge Castro Madrigal (6th Anniv.), Virginia Fourounjian (3rd Anniv.), Dorothy Schoepf (12th Anniv.)

SATURDAY, July 23-St. Bridget, Religious
8:00AM – Roy Miller, Connie & Consiglia Renga, Louise & Molly Renga, Bebe Ratcliffe
5:30PM – Daniel Tomaselli, Fred Lentini, Ashley Cistaro
7:00PM – Ezequel Alvarez Ramos, Clara Lopez, Cristobal Motoa Sanchez

SUNDAY, July 24– 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 AM – Timothy Kulig, Daniel Moran, Paul Ryan
9:00 AM – Joan Kakareka, Marge Carollo, Hugh Nolan
10:30 AM – Ann Gilman, Bernard Benjamin, Ashley Cistaro & Family
12:00 PM – Tom Keating, Veronica Steele, Michael Rosati
7:00 PM – Souls In Purgatory, Rose Lucille Miele

**WE NEED ADORERS - HOW ABOUT YOU?
PLEASE COME TO BE WITH JESUS**



“You left us Yourself in the Sacrament of the Altar. Here is the tabernacle of Your mercy, here is the remedy of all our ills.”

The following hours need adorers: Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 PM and Sunday at 12:00 Noon.

Please call Kim Arminio at 973-402-1289 if you can help with these hours.

SAINT PETER'S GOLDEN AGE-AUGUST 1ST

Saint Peter's Golden Age will meet at the Community Center on **Monday, August 1st** at 11:00 AM – All are welcome!

We are sponsoring a trip to the Sands in Pennsylvania on Thursday, July 28th. For more information, please call Joe and Jackie at 973-334-8428.

“Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons & daughters of the Most High.”
Luke 6: 35

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH JULY 17-23, 2016

SUNDAY, JULY 17TH

Christmas In July – Narthex
Food Pantry Collection – Narthex
1:15PM – Baptisms - Church
3:00PM – Filipino Community Mass/Fellowship – Church/Hall
5:30PM – Bingo – Parish Center

MONDAY, JULY 18TH

11:00AM – Golden Age Club – Community Center
6:00PM – CYO Basketball – Parish Center
7:30PM – Bible Week Meeting - Chapel

TUESDAY, JULY 19TH

1:30PM – Parish Finance Committee Meeting Rectory

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20TH

6:00PM – CYO Basketball – Parish Center

THURSDAY, JULY 21ST

Bible Week Set-Up – Church Hall
6:00PM – CYO Basketball – Parish Center
6:30PM – Food Pantry – School
8:30PM – Men’s Basketball – Parish Center

FRIDAY, JULY 22ND

Bible Week Set-Up – Church Hall

SATURDAY, JULY 23RD

Bible Week Set-Up – Church Hall
1:00PM – Vow Renewal - Church
4:00PM – Confessions – Church
5:30PM – Blessing of Expectant Parents - Church
7:30PM – AA – Church Hall
8:00PM – Indian Sports – Parish Center

JOIN FR. YOJAN ON A TRIP FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA INCLUDING THE HOLY LAND & ITALY



Fr. Yojan will be traveling to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Galilee, Capernaum, Rome, Assisi, Tuscany, Florence and Venice. You will witness the Canonization of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Trip Dates: August 27-September 9, 2016. Cost: \$4,900 Airfare and All-Included. To register for this trip, please call 855-842-8001 or 508-340-9370. You may also register online at www.proximotravel.com. Travel Agent: Proximo Travel.

ALTAR SERVERS – JULY 23/24, 2016

5:30PM – Marinelli, Lim
7:30AM – Jutchenko
9:00AM – McBride, Drucks, Arnold
10:30AM – Mersing, Mersing
12:00PM – Solomon, Brecher, Brecher
7:00PM – Ippolito, Yturbe

SEWING HELP NEEDED

We need someone with a sewing machine for straight stitching for small altar cloths. Please call the Rectory at 973-334-2090 if you can help.

SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE BIBLE WEEK MEETING – JULY 18TH

We will have a sharing meeting for Bible Week in the Daily Chapel on Monday, July 18 from 7:30-9:00 PM. We will review ways to use, pray and meditate with the word. All are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please call Deacon Bob at 973-887-5057 or email at ralife8@aol.com.

For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven...

...a time to born
Koby Braxton Sarkodie-Addo, Giovanni Cholula, Julian Cholula

...a time to die
Robert S. Briant, Robert Emerson Jaspon, Prospero Parraga, Mariajose Penaloza Gomez

...a time to heal
Fr. William Santeliz, Fr. Leo Carey, Fr. Ron Sordillo, Joan Franke, Noah Lorencovitz, Madeline Grace Williams, Joe Calabrese, Marie Pasquale, Ed Walter, Sal Duva, Matthew Sherlock

...a time to love
Sean Flavin & Holly Jones
"...and a time of peace." Ecclesiastes 3:11

Youth News

Our email SPAYOUTHMINISTER@GMAIL.COM

Registration for CCD, grades K through 9 for the 2016-2017 school year began on June 1st. Please visit our parish website – saintpetertheapostle.org – for a registration form.

Please visit www.facebook.com/spayouthministry

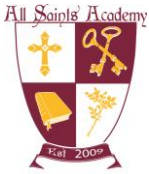
SAINT PETER’S CHRISTMAS IN JULY FOR BIRTHRIGHT & FOSTER CHILDREN

If you took a tag from the tree in the narthex to buy the item listed on it, your gift must be returned **unwrapped this weekend, July 16/17**. May the Lord, who gives us life, give us the joy of helping others live life to the fullest.

SUMMER PRAYER



Creator of all, thank You for summer! Thank You for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season. Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence, and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. Amen



ALL SAINTS ACADEMY CORNER

All Saints Academy welcomes all prospective students and their families that seek the academic, spiritual and social opportunities that exist uniquely in our school community. All Saints Academy is a nationally recognized STEM school of the Diocese of Paterson. Our school offers a comprehensive, multi-curricular, rigorous academic program, centered on values-based education. A strong and loving Catholic identity permeates the environment. A spirit of faith, respect and joy are evident in our school. In addition to religious instruction, students model Christian ideals through cooperative activities, spiritual and liturgical celebrations, participation in Sacraments, and service outreach. An active parent organization lends partnership and support to the school community. The Early Childhood Center offers classes for three and four year old children. The elementary and middle school classes include kindergarten through grade eight. Contact our school principal, Mrs. Judy Berg, at 973-334-4704, to schedule a tour and classroom visit. Visit our web page: www.allsaintspar.com.

MY WEEK IN APPLACHIA

As it was my first time on this trip, I was initially intimidated by such a big undertaking. Am I going to know anyone with me? Are the people down there nice? I could hardly hammer in some nails, let alone build ramps and roofs. But I soon realized how important our work was to their community and to the Catholic Church. Even though we may have had a slanted railing here or there, we carried out the Gospel through our work, as we are all called to do as Christians.

Personally, the most remarkable moment on the trip was when I met Tim, a man who lives next to our work site. By the time we met him, we finished repairing and tiling Sue's granddaughter's room, and we began working on her deck. At first, he talked to the group, asked us how we are doing, and offered to help demolish the deck stairs. By the next day, he gave us a bag of candy, and on the last day we were there, he graciously gave a few of his West Virginia hats as keepsakes. We later found out that he works in the hot glass furnaces in the county, making a small living for him and his wife of thirty years, living in their dainty trailer home.

What is so astonishing is that he, like the rest of the people we met in Preston County, have so little, yet gave so much compassion to our group. We felt their happiness and their kindness, something you don't see too often in our busy, fast-paced lives. Many have preconceived notions about the people of Appalachia, I included, but that soon faded away, as I realized that though they are suffering, they have hearts of gold.

In addition, I was surrounded by a wonderful group of teens. We bonded throughout the week, whether in the dorms, around the campfire, playing intense volleyball, or watching the fireworks - we shared a sense of camaraderie as young Catholics serving God's people. I was grateful to get to know Father Yojan, as he told us to "follow your heart" during the week. Overall, I made good friends with those who came on the trip, and I look forward to seeing them all next year in West Virginia.

Ultimately, Appalachia Help Week gave me an opportunity to reflect on the blessings I have at home, but more importantly on being blessed to be able to share in the love people like Tim and Sue gave us. Those six days are truly unforgettable, and the lessons I've learned will carry with me for the rest of my life. Alexei Sepe

Special thanks again to our many parishioners who have contributed your generous donations and prayers to make this wonderful Youth Ministry project possible each year.

BINGO – JULY 17, 2016

BINGO				
1	19	44	59	62
8	20	37	52	64
13	27	35	46	67
10	22	31	54	75
3	24	38	53	63

JULY 17 – TEAM C – MARY ANN CISTARO

POWERBALLS #1 \$500 #2 \$300

Powerball #2 for \$500 was won on Sunday, July 10th!!

WE NEED BINGO VOLUNTEERS MAYBE YOU CAN HELP US?

Again we thank our many volunteers who help our Parish operate Bingo on Sunday evenings. We are looking to increase our volunteer pool. If you are 18 years or older and would like to help raise money for your parish, please consider joining your fellow parishioners who volunteer for Bingo. Could you consider helping out once a month? Please call the Rectory – 973-334-2090. You must be 18 years or older. Come and have a look on a Sunday evening.

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE FOR SISTERS FALL COURSES FOR LAY PEOPLE

Fall 2016 – August 22-December 12 – Theology and Philosophy Courses. Sacred Scripture¹ Tuesdays 9:15-11:45 AM, Sacramental Theology Thursdays 12:30-3:15PM, Spiritual Theology Thursdays 9:15-11:45 AM & Historical Intro to Philosophy Tuesdays 12:30-2:00 & 12:30-1:30 PM – all courses are 3 credits.

Lay people invited to register for theology and philosophy courses for credit or audit. \$510/course for credit and \$225/course for audit. For registration call or email – 973-957-0188 ext. 106 or academicdean@acs350.org.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL NEEDED

The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Paterson is seeking applicants for an elementary school principal at St. Pius X School, Montville. Saint Pius X School is a co-educational elementary school, preschool through eighth grade.

Information about the opening and the application materials can be found at <http://www.patdiosschools.org/administrative-openings>.

The closing date for applications is July 25, 2016.

DONATE YOUR CAR – HELP THE NEEDY RECEIVE A TAX DEDUCTION OF \$500+

It's fast, it's easy and it requires only one short phone call or website visit. Cars For Help, a 501©3 not-for-profit organization, is using vehicle donations to support Christian churches and parishes across the USA to help people suffering through difficult times. If you would like to donate a vehicle in any condition, receive a tax deduction, and help your church do its great mission work please visit www.CarsForHelp.com, or call directly to 630-595-9272. Together we can make a difference!

With mention of this bulletin, 50% of your vehicle donation proceeds will go directly to Saint Peter the Apostle Parish. Don't delay...donate today!

Hablando español en San Pedro Apóstol

– 17 de julio de 2016 –

16^{to} Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Horario de las Misas:

lunes a viernes: 6:45am y 8:00 am

sábado: 5:30 pm y 7:00 pm en español

domingo: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12 m y 7:00 pm

Confesiones: sábado: 4:00 pm a 5:00 pm

Intenciones de las Misas: Por favor, notificar a la oficina parroquial (973-334-2090) o al sacerdote (Padre Yojan) con una semana de anticipación. El donativo para las intenciones es de \$10.00.

Mensaje del párroco:

Disfrutando el verano, uno de los regalos de Dios

La gente de nuestra parroquia que están de vacaciones en la playa o en las montañas, probablemente están muy felices. Esperemos que hayan traído suficiente bloqueador solar y repelente de insectos para disfrutar al aire libre, especialmente en las playas. Las barbacoas al aire libre se están utilizando mucho - ayudando a mantener la cocina fresca.

Mucha gente es gente de verano - yo me considero uno de ellos. Disfrutamos del poder y la maravilla del verano. Los juegos de pelota se pueden ver todos los días, para aquellos de nosotros que lo disfrutamos. Este verano, podremos disfrutar y celebrar los Juegos Olímpicos en Río de Janeiro. Estamos ansiosos o ya hablamos de las vacaciones que podemos tomar. Pasamos más tiempo al aire libre y disfrutamos la belleza de la naturaleza. Al igual que todas las cuatro estaciones del año que Dios nos da en esta parte del mundo, damos gracias al Señor por el regalo del verano.

También reconocemos que el verano puede ser un momento muy difícil para las personas que no gozan de buena salud. El calor y la humedad es un problema real para algunos de nuestros familiares y amigos. A pesar de que disfrutamos el verano, somos sensibles por aquellos a quienes les es difícil soportarlo. Digo aquí lo que le recuerdo a los niños de nuestra parroquia, "Sigan leyendo. No se limiten a ver la televisión y jugar juegos de computadora. Manténgase activos. Manténganse afuera. Busquen algunas tareas en las que puedan ayudar a sus padres en el hogar." Algunos de estos consejos pueden ser buenos para los adultos también.

Muchos de nuestros adolescentes mayores y estudiantes universitarios están trabajando durante el verano. Eso es bueno, aunque pueda haber algunos días en los que prefieran estar sentados en una playa. Trabajen fuerte y encuentren tiempo para divertirse, también. Ayude a alguien necesitado. Gente que necesita de su amable ayuda están por todas partes alrededor suyo. Busque de ellos, por favor.

Para todos nosotros, especialmente cuando sacamos tiempo libre para apreciar la belleza y la plenitud de los dones divinos de la naturaleza en esta temporada de verano; rogamos que nos demos cuenta de que este mundo, como el Papa Francisco ha enfatizado nos ha enfatizado en su nueva encíclica, es un regalo de un Dios amoroso, a sus hijos humanos en Cristo. Rogamos que podamos reconocer que es nuestra responsabilidad como la familia humana, cuidar de este maravilloso mundo de tal manera que siempre esté ahí para las futuras generaciones. Tenemos que hacer el mundo más hermoso y mejor, porque estamos aquí. Somos los buenos administradores. No somos dueños de este mundo. Pertenecemos a Dios. El lo ha confiado a nosotros. ¡Ese es nuestro reto!

Por favor, pídale a Dios que nos mantenga fieles este verano a nuestras oraciones diarias, la lectura diaria de las Escrituras y lo más importante la participación de nuestra Misa semanal, estando en casa o de vacaciones. Vaya a la página www.masstimes.org cuando esté lejos de vacaciones. Por favor, de un poco de ese tiempo lento de verano a Dios y Él te bendecirá por ello.

Dios le bendiga,

Padre Herb

¡Viaje con Padre Yojan! Viaje con el padre Yojaneider Ramírez, a la Canonización de la Madre Teresa de Calcuta - Tierra Santa - Italia - Puerta de la Misericordia. (Lugares: Jerusalén, Belén, Galilea, Cafarnaún, Roma, Asís, Toscana, Florencia, Venecia) desde el 27 agosto hasta el 9 de septiembre del presente año. Costo: \$4,900.00 Pasajes de avión y todo incluido. Para registrarse, por favor llame al [\(855\) 842-8001](tel:855-842-8001). También puede registrarse en línea en www.proximotravel.com.

A Church That Looks and Sounds Like Mercy

What would our church look like if we were truly merciful? It would look like we are trying to be the living representation of the God described in the psalms as “steadfast,” “faithfully devoted,” “merciful,” filled with the kind of compassionate love that a mother shows for a child in her womb. When we begin to see that being merciful and compassionate is what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God, when we recognize our dignity—and the dignity of all we meet—as sons and daughters of God, then we can begin to find ways to express and share this dignity.

We would look for ways to live like God, not just for some special occasion or only for a special Year of Mercy, but every day, in ordinary circumstances, with the people we meet who are in need of a kind of “daily” mercy, no matter how surprising or unexpected that may be for some people. Daily mercy is not something widely available in our world; all too often, we lean toward vengeance and punishment. Being merciful day after day is hard work. It takes practice, and it requires honesty. We have to be able to see ourselves as we are before we can experience the true God and our brothers and sisters as they are. We fail, and we are sinners, but we are sinners who are loved and who are capable of love.

Sadly, sometimes the hardest place to be merciful is with the people around us—our families, the people with whom we work, the people we know whom we consider pests, cranks, or just annoying.

Our worship not only calls us to be merciful this way; it

teaches us how to do it and helps us to practice such mercy. Consider this: Our Liturgy begins with a cry for mercy in the “*Kyrie*”; our response to the proclamation of God’s Word is a prayer for mercy for the Church and for all the world’s needy. Before we approach the altar to share sacramental Communion, we call to the Lamb of God for mercy. Mercy frequently takes the shape of service, so we are called to share

our gifts in service to the worshipping assembly as ministers of our common prayer. Mercy often means letting others go before us, stepping aside so others may recognize and exercise their gifts.

We need to come to worship and to meetings with other people with an expectation that we will encounter the Risen Christ in those we meet and in those we serve. It’s hard to do. It’s hard to believe that Christ is present in the child crying in the pew behind us or kicking the back of the pew, in the person we have to talk to who speaks a language other than our own, in the homeless woman in the back pew who is several weeks away from her last bath.

In the end, though, this is the only way we will meet Christ: in and through other people. Our meetings with other people reveal us to ourselves and help us recognize our need for Christ. They also reveal, through the love that other people show us, the presence of Christ in ourselves. It is that presence that gives us the strength to find Christ in others and to share with them the mercy shown to us. Sometimes we have to step out of our comfort zone, called by divine mercy, but that move will be a key step in our journey of faith.



Una Iglesia de apariencia similar a la misericordia

¿Cómo sería nuestra Iglesia si verdaderamente fuéramos misericordiosos? Sería como si tratáramos de convertirnos en la representación viva del Dios descrito en los salmos como “firme”, “fielmente devoto”, “misericordioso” y lleno de la clase de amor compasivo que muestra una madre por el hijo que lleva en las entrañas. Cuando comencemos a ver que ser misericordiosos y compasivos significa ser hechos a imagen y semejanza de Dios y reconozcamos nuestra dignidad—y la dignidad de todas las personas conocidas—como hijos e hijas de Dios, encontraremos la forma de expresar y compartir esa dignidad.

Si fuéramos misericordiosos, buscaríamos formas de vivir como Dios, no solo en alguna ocasión especial ni únicamente en una celebración particular como el Año de la Misericordia, sino todos los días, en circunstancias comunes, con la gente con quien nos encontramos y que necesita una clase de misericordia “diaria”, sin importar qué tan sorprendente o inesperado sea eso para algunos. La misericordia diaria no es algo fácil de encontrar en nuestro mundo; con mucha frecuencia, nos inclinamos hacia la venganza y el castigo. Ser misericordiosos día tras día es un trabajo arduo que exige práctica y sinceridad. Debemos vernos tal como somos antes de poder experimentar al verdadero Dios y a nuestros hermanos y hermanas como son. Fallamos y somos pecadores, pero somos pecadores amados y capaces de amar.

Tristemente, a veces el lugar más difícil para ser misericordiosos es donde está la gente que nos rodea—nuestros familiares, compañeros de trabajo y conocidos que consideramos fastidiosos, excéntricos o, sencillamente, molestos.

El culto no solo nos llama a ser misericordiosos de esa

forma sino que nos enseña a hacerlo y nos ayuda a practicarlo. Piensen en esto: la liturgia comienza con un clamor de misericordia en el *Kyrie*; nuestra respuesta a la proclamación de la Palabra de Dios es una oración que pide misericordia para la Iglesia y todos los necesitados del mundo. Antes de acercarnos al altar a compartir la Comunión sacramental, clamamos misericordia al Cordero de Dios. La misericordia a menudo se expresa en servicio, de modo que somos llamados a compartir nuestros dones mediante servicio a la comunidad de culto, como ministros de nuestra oración común. A menudo, la misericordia significa dejar que otros vayan adelante y hacernos a un lado para que otros puedan reconocer y utilizar esos dones.

Necesitamos ir a los oficios y a las reuniones con otra gente con la expectativa de que encontraremos a Cristo Resucitado en las personas conocidas y a quienes servimos. Es difícil hacerlo. Es difícil creer que Cristo está presente en cada niño que llora o da puntapiés en la banca de atrás de la Iglesia, en la persona con quien debemos comunicarnos pero que habla un idioma extranjero, y en la mujer indigente y sin bañarse en varias semanas, que se sienta casi a la salida de la Iglesia.

Sin embargo, en fin de cuentas, esta es la única forma de encontramos con Cristo: en otras personas y a través de ellas. Nuestras reuniones con otra gente nos revelan quiénes somos y nos ayudan a reconocer que necesitamos a Cristo. Por medio del amor que nos demuestran los demás, ellos también revelan la presencia de Cristo en nuestro propio ser. Esa presencia nos da la fuerza de encontrar a Cristo en otros y de compartir con ellos la misericordia que se nos demuestra. A veces, al ser llamados por la divina misericordia, debemos salir de nuestro terreno conocido, pero esa salida será un paso clave en nuestro peregrinaje de fe.

