



An Easter message from our pastor...

Dear Parishioners:

Every Sunday when we profess the Creed, we state that we believe in the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' passing over the threshold of death settles the debt humanity owes to God for the offense of our first parents. The great chasm between the divine and the human has been bridged.

Of all the myriad ways God showers his Divine Mercy on us this may be the most profound experience we have of this stupendous quality of God. Our sins are wiped away by God's forgiveness and will not be remembered ("For I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sins no more," Heb. 8:12. We have the same kindness spoken by God in Jer. 31:24 and Is. 43:45).

In addition, when God forgives he also restores you and me to dignity and honor. We learn from Isaiah, Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; Though they be red like crimson, they may become white as wool (Is. 1:18). The prophet Hosea writes beautifully as he sings of the restoration of his wife, Gomer, after a life of sin. Our scriptures are filled with the beauty of God's loving mercy and goodness.

Blaise Pascal writes, *We implore the mercy of God, not that he may leave us in peace in the midst of our vices, but that he deliver us from them.* God's mercy is not just a hand on one's shoulder but an invitation to a life of greater trust in God.

Mercy might grab us by the hair and pull us out of a surging river to save us from drowning. It may take the form of needed discipline or an embarrassing apology or a loss of position, etc. Perhaps most of us have experienced lessons learned from mistake or loss.

Near the conclusion of St. John Paul's encyclical *Rich in Mercy* he teaches, *In the name of Jesus Christ crucified and risen, in the spirit of His messianic mission, enduring in the history of humanity, we raise our voices and pray that the Love which is in the Father may once again be revealed at this stage of history, and that, through the work of the Son and Holy Spirit, it may be shown to be present in our modern world and to be more powerful than evil: more powerful than sin and death. We pray for this through the intercession of her who does not cease to proclaim "mercy...from generation to generation," and also through the intercession of those for whom there have been completely fulfilled the words of the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."*

Let us share the mercy we have received with all we meet. Let us never hold back in our expression of mercy towards others. Let us have the heart of Jesus' Father who is Love itself. One never loses when mercy is practiced. The more we live mercy the more our heart expands and the more the mercy and love of God can fill the space we make for him. When this happens, we will be able to experience a greater happiness in the fullness of heaven. It doesn't get any better than that.



Pace - bene

Msgr. Bill