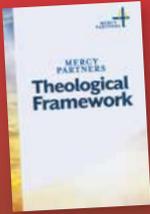


2018



Mercy is Relational





Gathering: Mercy Partners

Theological Framework traces the story of God's Mercy through scripture and Church teaching. Importantly it begins this journey with the individual and the way we treat others.

From the *Theological Framework*

If we know mercy, we know it because we affirm the life-giving presence of another for us. Mercy always arrives as a gift. It does not signal an obligation or a mere duty because it intimately addresses us as persons in responding to our most pressing needs. Nor does mercy speak a false word, or try to save us with something less than the truth. Many misunderstandings of mercy emphasise caring for others in ways that surrender reality to a misguided sentimentality.

Rather, true mercy creates new beginnings by our seeing one another in the light of the truth about who we are, our deepest identities both given and hidden in God's unwavering love for us (1 John 3:1-2). The meaning of mercy points to God's initiative in our concrete circumstances and in the context of our desire for a fuller personal and communal life.

For personal reflection

God is leading us to be there for the other. When have you experienced God's mercy through another person?

**SCRIPTURE
PASSAGE**

*John 13:34,
Luke 6:31*

“Jesus said: Love one another ... and do to

Reading

With so much fear and despair in the world, so many evil things happening, you may easily lose heart. You will be tempted to feel sorry for yourself, to settle for less, to go it alone. But think again! This is the time for courage, for hope, for determination. It is the time to lean on your friends, to reach for help, to be openly needy. This is the natural way of restoring your positive energy, your confidence. It is so easy to get depressed. But look around you at all the examples of trust and strength in those you respect and love.

– Daniel O’Leary, *The Happiness Habit*, 2015, p89.

The fragility of our era is this: we don’t believe that there is a chance for redemption; for a hand to raise you up; for an embrace to save you, forgive you, pick you up, flood you with infinite, patient, indulgent love; to put you back on your feet. We need mercy.

– Pope Francis: *The Name of God is Mercy*, 2015, p17.

Discussion

How can we in our ministries ensure God’s mercy arrives as a gift to those we serve?

Prayer

God of Mercy,

Help us to be open to the needs of others and ourselves.

Open our hearts and minds to experience your grace in our homes and in our communities.

Enable us to show mercy in our interactions and intentions.

May we be your face of love and mercy to those with whom we live and work.

Amen.

Reference: *Mercy Partners Theological Framework*,
Chapter 2 – The Experience of God’s Mercy.

READ MORE

You can read more from the scriptures on mercy as relationship in: Ephesians 4: 29-32, Philippians 2: 4; Colossians 3:12-14, Luke 6: 36-37.

others as you would have them do to you”



1 Mercy is Relational

The Path of God's Mercy

A journey in scripture, church and human experience

Mercy is Relational

Mercy is Communion

Mercy is Covenant

God's Eternal Mercy

Gospel of Mercy

Walking in Mercy

Church of Mercy

Hearts of Mercy

God's Name 'Mercy'

