

God's Name 'Mercy'





Gathering: When Pope Francis proclaimed a Year of Mercy he focused us all on the power of mercy in our world. Yet at times we can feel overwhelmed by the call to proclaim mercy in a world which is often not listening or responding.

From the *Theological Framework*

Pope Francis says: “The 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” (Evangelii Gaudium 114). Here we can recognise that the Church experiences an ongoing conversion in the life of mercy, for the Spirit continually moves us, shaping the concrete patterns of our lives in imitation of Christ. The grace of conversion – God’s plucking our heart of stone and giving us a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 11:19) – enables us to love others more fully, and this transformation looks more to our collective relations than to us as individuals (*Lumen Gentium* 9).

For personal reflection

Is mercy a feature of your workplace? When do you experience the Church as a place of mercy?

SCRIPTURE
PASSAGE

Ezekiel 11:19

“I will give them one heart, and

Reading

Our faith needs the support of others, especially in difficult moments. If we are united our faith becomes stronger. How beautiful it is to support each other in the wonderful adventure of faith! I say this because the tendency to be closed and private has influenced the religious sphere as well, so much so, that it often becomes difficult to ask for spiritual help from those who would share this Christian life with us. Who among us has not experienced insecurity, confusion and even doubt on our journey of faith? We have all experienced this, myself as well. It is part of the journey of faith, it is part of our life. None of this should surprise us, because we are human beings, marked by fragility and limitations. We are all frail, we all have limitations ... Let us go forward on this journey with trust, with joy. A Christian must be joyful, with the joy of having so many baptised brothers and sisters to journey with him; sustained by the help of brothers and sisters who are taking the same path toward heaven; and also by the help of brothers and sisters who are in heaven and are praying to Jesus for us. Go forward on this path with joy! (Pope Francis, General Audience on 30 October 2013. Read the full document at goo.gl/8V4L3n).

Discussion

How can we help those in our organisations with their spiritual journey?

Prayer

God of Love,

Through Pope Francis we are reminded of your call to mercy.

May we reach out to others on their spiritual journey.

Help us to build communities of mercy and reach out to those in need.

Give us hearts of mercy and love for our world.

Amen.

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

READ MORE

You can read more on Mercy in the following scripture, books and online documents:

1 John 4:8,16, Exodus 34:6, Deuteronomy 4:31, Psalm 116:5,

Pope Francis, *The Name of God is Mercy*, 2015,

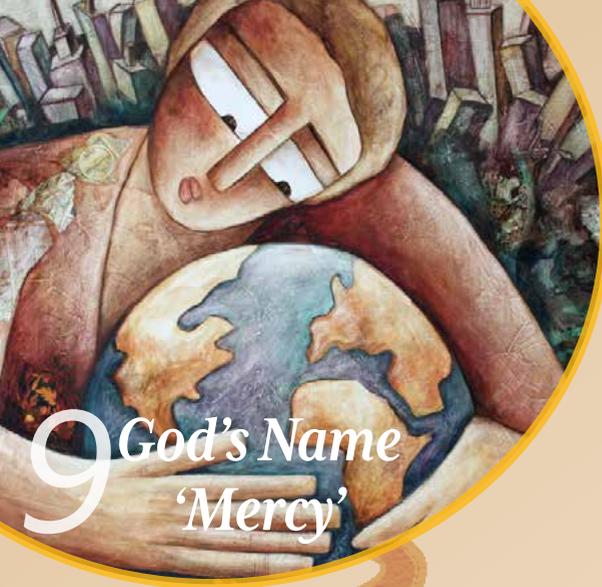
Pope Francis, *The Church of Mercy*, 2014,

Cardinal Walter Kasper, *Mercy: The Essence of the Gospel and the Key to Christian Existence*, 2014,

Pope Francis, ‘*Evangelii Gaudium*’ (The Joy of the Gospel). Read the full document at goo.gl/PjNXKa,

Second Vatican Council, ‘*Lumen Gentium*’ (Light of the Nations). Read the full document at goo.gl/et2T.

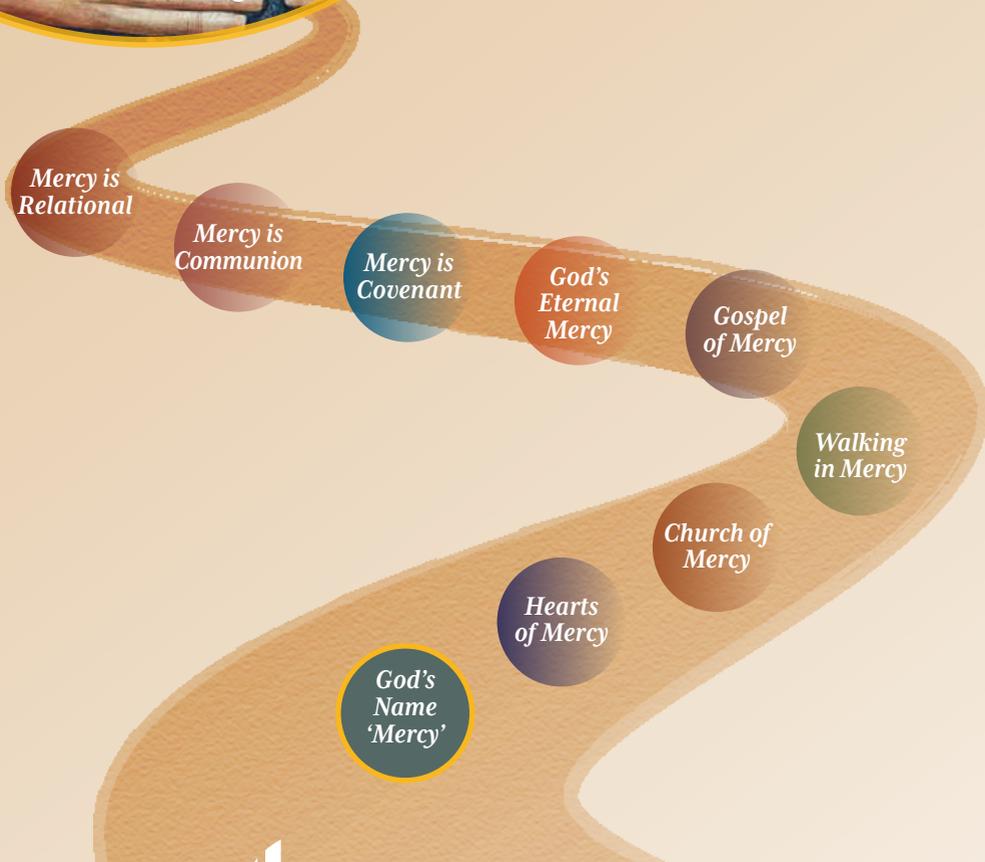
put a new spirit within them”



The Path of God's Mercy

A journey in scripture, church and human experience

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