



Divine Mercy is not a License to Sin

Three weeks ago, was the feast of Divine Mercy. Reflecting on the overwhelming love of God shown to us in his mercy, it is important to reflect not just on what mercy is, but what it is not. The mercy shown to us by God, gives us the “space” we need in our sinfulness, to turn away from our sin and live the life to which God has called us. In justice we are in condemned, but in mercy we are granted a reprieve from the just punishment of our sins deserve in order to change.

In the dialog between Jesus and the woman caught in adultery in the 8th chapter of the Gospel of John, the Lord asks the woman, “Has no one condemned you?” She responds, “No one sir” And Jesus then says to her, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.” In this context, to condemn means to sentence, to assign punishment. For instance, one is “condemned to the gallows.” It is not about guilt but punishment. The guilt of the woman caught in adultery in the Gospel was established and not disputed. It was to those who wanted to punish her that Jesus remarked, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” But Jesus never denied that she sinned, or that she was without guilt, or that it didn’t matter that she committed adultery. Quite the opposite. In his mercy, while the Lord did not condemn her, he did at the same time admonish her to sin no more....to turn away from the behavior that leads to condemnation.

Cardinal Robert Sarah the former Prefect for the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments makes the same point. He stated in an interview, *“Many faithful rejoice to hear about the divine mercy, and they hope that the radical nature of the Gospel could also mitigate in favor of those who have made the decision to live in rupture with the crucified love of Jesus. They think that because of the Lord’s infinite goodness everything is possible, even while deciding not to change anything about their lives. For many, it is normal that God should pour his mercy upon them while they dwell in sin. They do not understand that light and darkness cannot coexist, in spite of the many appeals of St. Paul: ‘What should we say then? That we should remain in sin so that grace may abound? Of course not!’(Romans 6:1)…*

This confusion demands rapid responses. The Church cannot go forward as if reality did not exist: it can no longer content itself with ephemeral enthusiasms, which last for the duration of great gatherings or liturgical assemblies, as beautiful and rich as they may be. It can no longer hold back from a practical reflection on subjectivism as the root of most of the current errors. What use is it that the pope's Twitter account is followed by hundreds of thousands of persons if men do not concretely change their lives? What use is it to tally up the figures of the crowds that throng before the popes if we are not sure that the conversions are real and profound?... In the face of the onslaught of subjectivism that seems to be overrunning the world, churchmen must guard themselves from denying reality while basking in misleading appearances and glory... In order to set a radical change of concrete life into motion, the teaching of Jesus and of the Church must reach man’s heart. Two millennia ago, the apostles followed Christ. They left everything and their existence was never the same. Still today the journey of the apostles is a model.”

The mercy of God is not given to us so that we can remain in sin, but to get out of it. Let us the honor mercy of God that he gives us by truly striving each day to make the changes in our lives we need in order to be true, authentic followers of Christ.

God bless you,
Father Joseph Byerley

Ministry Volunteers of Holy Angels Parish

Parish Ministries Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, May 18, 2024

5:00 - 9:00PM

Parish Center • 96 Green Ave.

R.S.V.P. by May 10th
856-845-0123
Adults Only



Holy Angels Community Event

Cornhole Tournament & Fresh Berry Fest!

SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST • 5:00-9:00PM
FOLLOWING 4:00 MASS

Parish Center 96 Green Ave.

Tickets \$10/person or \$25/family

Tickets available after weekend Masses, in the Parish Office weekdays, and at the Door the Night of.

Enjoy a meal together!

- Burgers
- Dogs
- Salads
- Dessert will Feature Fresh Berries, delicious Pound Cake and Ice Cream!

BYOB

To contribute a side dish, please call:

Sharon James 856-931-1979

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

CASH PRIZES

100% Cashout 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Winners!

Sign Up at the Event - \$10 a person

Get matched with a partner!



