

THE MERCY OF GOD

MEANING

① IN GENERAL, MERCY IS LOVE OVERCOMING HUMAN MISERY

② IN GOD

- 1) DIVINE MERCY IS GOD'S GOODNESS SHOWN TO THOSE IN NEED
- 2) GOD'S MERCY IS HIS LOVE TOWARD THOSE WHO ARE IN PAIN
- 3) HIS MERCY IS ESPECIALLY HIS LOVE TOWARD SINNERS, WHOSE SINS DEBARRE THEM OF A CLAIM ON GOD'S JUSTICE

EXPLANATION

① THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE TEACHING ON DIVINE MERCY IS POPE JOHN PAUL II'S DIVES IN MISERICORDIA, 1980.

② IN THE ENCYCLICAL, THE HOLY FATHER DECLARES

- 1) JESUS CHRIST IS THE INCARNATION OF GOD'S MERCY
- 2) MERCY IS LOVE DRAWING GOOD OUT OF EVIL
- 3) GOD'S MERCY IS THE MODEL OF WHAT OUR MERCY SHOULD BE
- 4) ST. LUKE IS THE GREAT EVANGELIST OF GOD'S MERCY
- 5) GOD'S LOVE BECOMES MERCY WHEN IT IS SHOWN TO HUMAN BEINGS WHO HAD SINNED
- 6) GOD PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TO PRACTICE MERCY TOWARD THOSE WHO HAVE OFFENDED US.
- 7) OUR MERCY TO OTHERS IS THE MEASURE OF GOD'S MERCY TO US
- 8) MODERN PREOCCUPATION WITH JUSTICE IS COMMENDABLE, BUT FOR CHRISTIANS JUSTICE IS NOT ENOUGH. MERCY MUST BE ADDED TO JUSTICE, IF INSISTENCE ON JUSTICE IS NOT TO BECOME CRUELTY.
- 9) THE CHURCH HAS THE DUTY TO
 - PROCLAIM GOD'S MERCY TO A SUFFERING HUMANITY
 - PROFESS GOD'S MERCY IN THE WAY BELIEVERS LIVE
 - TEACHING THE RICHES OF GOD'S MERCY TO A SINFUL WORLD
 - APPEAL TO GOD'S MERCY BY THE PRAYERS AND SACRIFICES OF THE FAITHFUL

ANALYSIS

IMPLICATIONS

- ① GOD'S MERCY IS ADORABLE: WE ARE TO HONOR AND PRAISE GOD FOR HIS INFINITE MERCY
- ② HIS MERCY SHOULD EVOKE OUR GRATITUDE: SHOWN BY OUR MERCY TOWARD OTHERS
- ③ HIS MERCY SHOULD MOVE US TO CONVERSION: GOD IS MERCIFUL BUT ONLY TO THE TRULY REPENTANT — IN SORROW, IN EXPIATION, IN AMENDMENT OF LIFE
- ④ HIS MERCY INSPIRES OUR PETITIONS: HAVING BEEN SO FORGIVING IN THE PAST, WHAT CAN WE NOT EXPECT FOR THE FUTURE