

CDM Kampungku Connection 2022

January: Communion- See God's Mercy

A glimpse into the merciful heart of Jesus

Silence, sacred space, slowing down- Sensory activity

Most of us would define prayer as a spiritual activity—one that involves our mind, heart and spirit. Yet I do not pray apart from my body. It is my complete being that worships and all of me that prays.

I cannot disengage from either my mind, body or spirit. God created me complete; to engage in the physical as well as spiritual.

Take time now to allow silence and a conscious slowing down to experience God's presence within and outside of you.

Take some time each day this week to sit and gaze at something that inspires you or comforts you. Slow your breathing and be present in the moment. Imagine God watching you and taking delight in your enjoyment of his creation.



Opening Prayer:

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD – AD SUMUS SANCTE SPIRITUS

We stand before You Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name,
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; Do not let us promote disorder
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
Nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life
And not stray from the way of truth and what is right
All this we ask of You who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son Forever and ever **AMEN**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CP9xKzYpKVg>

(Listen together and experience anew the gentle outpouring of Divine Mercy)

The very core of our devotion to the Divine Mercy is the belief in the limitless mercy of God-and that “apart from the mercy of God there is no other source of hope for mankind” This strong statement from St John Paul II reminds us of the importance of living out Divine Mercy and the need to bring the mercy of God to all we meet daily. St JPII also defined mercy as the 2nd name for love.

God’s Word



While we describe our God as “all-powerful”, “mighty and “all-knowing”, we declare that God’s greatest attribute is His mercy. We can only begin to see glimpses into His merciful heart and never match this quality but we are ALL called to mirror it.

Reflect: *A beautiful example of being merciful by forgiving comes out in an incident between two women at a bookshop. The owner came into the bookshop one day, and started directing the work of the manager, and this with her usual gusto. The manager started to fume inside while trying to keep her cool on the outside. Afterwards, she went to her parish priest and vented her feelings about the interference in her work. After she had vented her anger for a while, Father interrupted with the question, "Was the owner right or wrong?"*

"She was wrong!" retorted the woman with no uncertainty in her voice.

"Wonderful," Father responded, "now you are in the perfect situation to be a Christian and forgive her!"

Divine Mercy is not a secondary devotion but a central part of our faith. Made in the Father's image we are called to mirror his merciful nature. The concept of mercy and trust is bountifully found in the Bible. Michael Gaitley says: "The bible can be summarized as one long school of trust". " Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to my mercy"- Jesus told St Faustina.

The later Fr. Seraphim Michaelenko, a key figure in the spread of Divine Mercy devotion worldwide and prime mover in the beatification of St Faustina, defined mercy as "loving the unlovable and forgiving the unforgivable" which is what God does for us.

As we begin 2022 let us today revisit our core beliefs on Divine Mercy. Here are some definitions of mercy and trust.

Mercy:

- Greatest attribute of God
- Consider these 2 words for mercy in the Hebrew bible- "hesed'- giving people more than they deserve-going beyond strict justice. And "rachamin" likened to the love of a mother for her child- unconditional
- Mercy is love poured through the pierced heart of Jesus
- Mercy is love's 2nd name
- Mercy flows from meditation on the word of God, from the Eucharist which is love greater than death and from reconciliation which is love greater than sin and evil.

Trust:

- Trust: The vessel by which we receive graces from God.
- An attitude of total surrender to God -an "entrustment" of our whole lives to Him.
- Saying and believing "Your will be done"
- Acting on our belief that only God is the author of our lives
- Turning back to God

Both mercy and trust call for a spirit of conversion- to rediscover God's mercy daily and trust in Him. It's a radical call to be the people that God has intended us to be. St John Paul II writes that conversion to God always consists in discovering His mercy – love which is patient and kind as only the Creator and Father can be.

ABCs of Mercy

- Ask for God's mercy
- Be merciful to all
- Complete trust in God's mercy- Trust is the vessel by which all grace is received

Practise the Spiritual and Corporal works of Mercy

Share: what is one way in which devotion to the Divine Mercy has helped or changed your life?

Sacrament: Baptism

Original sin removed us from the sanctifying grace of God the Father. However, Jesus came to restore this grace and grant us mercy through the sacrament of Baptism.

Baptism is **the first sacrament that a person receives in the Roman Catholic Church**. ... Roman Catholics practice infant baptism, believing that it is important for a child of believing parents to be introduced into Christian life as soon as possible as an active transmission of faith.

The sacrament of baptism invites us into the “shoes” of Christ; into an intimate communion and encounter with him. Through our baptism, we participate in the baptism of Christ. As in the case of Jesus, the Spirit descends upon us making us a new creation, and the Father reveals us to be his beloved adopted sons and daughters.

Our baptism also allows us to participate in the public life of Christ through our corporal and spiritual works of mercy - to participate in the mission Jesus gave to his Church: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Mt 28:19-20)

Let’s now reflect on our own Baptism. (Pause after each statement)

❓ Where did your Baptism take place? Do you ever visit that Church?

❓ What was the date of your Baptism? Do you celebrate it every year?

❓ Who was the Priest of your Baptism? Say a silent prayer for him now.

❓ What is your Baptismal name? Why were you given that name? What does that name mean?

❓ What promises did your parents make on the day of your Baptism? Say a silent prayer for your parents.

❓ Who were/are your godparents? Why were they chosen? What promises did they make? Say a silent prayer for them.

Ministry shoutout: RCIA

Video link to RCIA (if available)

RCIA or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process or journey whereby non-Catholics are introduced into the Catholic faith. In CDM, our faith journey starts on Trinity Sunday and concludes on Holy Saturday with the Sacrament of Baptism. For our baptized brothers and sisters from other non-Catholic churches; who wish to embrace our Catholic teachings, they too will journey together, and be confirmed as Catholics after their Profession of Faith.

In our RCIA Ministry, we have a team of dedicated facilitators who are ever so ready and willing to share our faith with these enquirers. We help prepare them to live a life of commitment to the Church's teachings. They must by their own free will; commit to living as a Catholic, following and imitating Our Lord Jesus Christ and His will.

The journey takes about almost a year, as it is a process for the candidates to truly understand what is required for them to be a Catholic. The enquirers will journey for approximately five months before being officially introduced and welcomed into the Catholic community and then they are no longer called enquirers but Catechumens. Their journey becomes more intense as they go through the various Rites before culminating with The Rite of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion on Holy Saturday Night.

We have recently introduced a Support Team for our candidates who might need a listening ear to their concerns about their faith journey. This team comprises of very compassionate Church members who are there to listen, share and pray for our candidates in a very confidential way as the candidates continue their journey with the RCIA.

Besides just attending classes in the RCIA sessions, we still have fun. A light brunch is shared before class every Sunday pre-MCO, but now we have classes online via Google Meet. Whenever we have get-togethers, picnics, and outings, the candidates are encouraged to invite their family members to join us. This is a time of bonding with our candidates and their family members, who may or may not be Catholics. In this way, we too are evangelizing to their non-Catholic families and friends and hope they too will see Christ's love shining through everyone.

This is **RCIA**.

Closing Prayer: *Loving Jesus, the words used to describe your mercy...unfathomable and as wide as the ocean, astonishment for angels and incomprehensible to saints, speaks of the limitless depths of your love. Help us begin and end each day giving thanks for this great gift of Your mercy. Move in us Father to be that source of mercy and to bring mercy to everyone we meet daily. You chose us Lord, empower us now as vessels of that overflowing mercy. Jesus I trust in You. Amen*
