



## GOD'S MERCY

### "MERCY AND SIN

"The Gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God's mercy to sinners.<sup>113</sup> The angel announced to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'<sup>114</sup> The same is true of the Eucharist, the sacrament of redemption: 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'<sup>115</sup>" *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1846*

"'God created us without us: but he did not will to save us without us.'<sup>116</sup> To receive his mercy, we must admit our faults. 'If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'<sup>117</sup>" *CCC 1847*

"As St. Paul affirms, 'Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.'<sup>118</sup> But to do its work grace must uncover sin so as to convert our hearts and bestow on us 'righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.'<sup>119</sup> Like a physician who probes the wound before treating it, God, by his Word and by his Spirit, casts a living light on sin:

Conversion *requires convincing of sin*; it includes the interior judgment of conscience, and this, being a proof of the action of the Spirit of truth in man's inmost being, becomes at the same time the start of a new grant of grace and love: 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' Thus in this 'convincing concerning sin' we discover a *double gift*: the gift of the truth of conscience and the gift of the certainty of redemption. The Spirit of truth is the Consoler.<sup>120</sup>" *CCC 1848*

<sup>113</sup> Cf. *Lk* 15.

<sup>114</sup> *Mt* 1:21.

<sup>115</sup> *Mt* 26:28.

<sup>116</sup> St. Augustine, *Sermo* 169, 11, 13: PL 38, 923.

<sup>117</sup> *1 Jn* 8-9.

<sup>118</sup> *Rom* 5:20.

<sup>119</sup> *Rom* 5:21.

<sup>120</sup> John Paul II, *DeV* 31 § 2.

# What Did You Learn About God's Mercy?

for younger saints

1. Mercy is
  - a. something God owes to us.
  - b. something we do not deserve.
2. In which sacrament is our sin washed away?
  - a. the sacrament of Matrimony
  - b. the sacrament of Reconciliation
3. To receive God's forgiveness, we must
  - a. admit our faults.
  - b. be sorry for our sins.
  - c. recite a Glory Be.
4. If we acknowledge our sin, God will
  - a. be mad to find out we failed Him.
  - b. not want to be our friend anymore.
  - c. be faithful and just and will forgive us.
5. Why was Jesus pleased when the woman washed His feet with perfume and dried them with her hair?
  - a. She was repentant and humbled herself.
  - b. She honored Him with this expensive gift.
  - c. She loved Him very much and had great faith.
6. Jesus' greatest act of mercy was
  - a. being punished in our place by dying on the cross.
  - b. going back to heaven to be with the Father.
  - c. going into the desert for 40 days.
7. By dying on the cross, Jesus
  - a. made it possible for us to go to heaven someday.
  - b. made it possible for us to have our sins forgiven and wiped away.
  - c. opened the floodgates for God's mercy to flow into every area of our lives.
8. Recite your memory verse for this month.

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*"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone...." John 8:7*

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8. Recite your memory prayer for this month.

**Act of Contrition:** O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you. I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend You, O my God, Who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and amend my life. Amen.