

## TODAY'S READINGS

**M**y Lord and my God! (John 20:28)  
 Sometimes we get labeled, whether justly or unjustly. This is certainly the case in today's Gospel reading. Jesus had appeared to the apostles, but Thomas had not been present. When the other apostles told him about it, he couldn't accept it. Even though they had been together for three years, he still doubted them.

The Gospel of John is filled with expressions that give honor to Jesus. Some people called Jesus a great prophet. Others called him a teacher. Still others called him the Christ or even the Son of God. But it was the apostle Thomas—the one who has forever been labeled the “doubter”—who first proclaimed Jesus to be “my Lord and my God” (John 20:28). In the words of biblical scholar Fr. Raymond Brown, Thomas made “the most complete affirmation of Christ's nature to be found on the lips of anyone in the Gospel.”

My Lord and my God! Every miracle Jesus performed, be it the healing of the man who was lowered down through the roof, the healing of the blind Bartimaeus, or the raising of Lazarus, points to these four words. Every teaching Jesus gave, be it the Sermon on the Mount, the parable of the prodigal son, or the Golden Rule, points to these four words. Every revelation of God's mercy and love points to who Jesus is and how he wants us to see him.

This story about Thomas tells the story of every believer in the history of the Church. Thomas represents each of us when we say, “I find it hard to believe.” Just as Jesus rejuvenated Thomas' faith, he wants to rejuvenate ours when we are caught up in doubt. He wants us to be like Thomas—a people who overcome our very human and very natural doubts. He wants to help each one of us say, “Jesus, you are my Lord and my God.”

So today and all week long, proclaim these four precious words. Then watch to see how his grace will help you believe even more.

*“Jesus, you are my Lord and my God!”*

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, Easter 2016, Vol. 35, Number 4: Used with permission.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

**Sunday 3** Acts 5:12-16 / Rv 1:9-11,12-13,17-19 / Jn 20:19-31  
*Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday*

**Monday 4** Is 7:10-14; 8:10 / Heb 10:4-10 / Lk 1:26-38  
*The Annunciation of the Lord*

**Tuesday 5** Acts 4:32-37 / Jn 3:7-15  
*St. Vincent Ferrer*

**Wednesday 6** Acts 5:17-26 / Jn 3:16-21

**Thursday 7** Acts 5:27-33 / Jn 3:31-36  
*St. John Baptist de la Salle*

**Friday 8** Acts 5:34-42 / Jn 6:1-15

**Saturday 9** Acts 6:1-7 / Jn 6:16-21

**Sunday 10** Acts 5:27-32, 40-41 / Rv 5:11-14 / Jn 21:1-19

## PARISH CALENDAR

April 3 – 10

**7am Weekday Mass Cancellation** – The 7am Mass is cancelled from Monday, April 4 through Friday, April 8 due to the vacations of two of our rectory priests and the unavailability of several regular extern priests. We regret any inconvenience. The 7am weekday Mass will resume on Monday, April 11.

### Sunday 3—Sunday of Divine Mercy

A second collection for Cathedral maintenance is taken at all Masses. Hospitality is held after the 8:30, 10 and 11:30am and the 5:30pm Masses in the North Conference Room.

Children's Faith Formation meet at 9:45am at the Education Center.

Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar continúan a las 11:00 de la mañana.

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration following the 1pm Mass, and the **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** is prayed in English and Spanish at 3pm.

**Monday 4**—The Parish Council meets at 6:45pm in the East Conference Room.

**Tuesday 5**—Legión de María se reúne a las 5:30 de la tarde hasta las 7 en el salón del Oeste.

El grupo de Oración se reúne a las 7 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Norte.

**El Obispo Mario Dorsonville** será nuestro invitado especial, con el tema: **Cristo Resucitado**.

**Wednesday 6**—RCIA meets at 7pm in the North Conference Room.

Sacred Page, Sunday Scripture Reflections meets at 7pm in the West Conference Room.

**Saturday 9**—Fr. Hurley's Bible study, “Palms to Psalms,” meets at 10:30am in the East Conference Room.

**Sunday 10**—Children's Faith Formation meets at 9:45am at the Education Center.

Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar continúan a las 11:00 de la mañana.

**El Obispo Mario Dorsonville** celebrará la misa de 1:00 de la tarde, tercer domingo de Pascua y por la paz en Colombia.

Always God's Children meets in the West Conference Room at 3:30pm.

## JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)** – “Thinking back on my life and my experiences, to September 21, 1953, when God came to me and filled me with wonder, I have always said that the Lord precedes us, he anticipates us. I believe the same can be said for his divine mercy, which heals our wounds; he anticipates our need for it. God waits; he waits for us to concede him only the smallest glimmer of space so that he can enact his forgiveness and his charity within us. Only he who has been touched and caressed by the tenderness of his mercy really knows the Lord. For this reason, I have often said that the place where my encounter with the mercy of Jesus takes place is in my sin.” Pope Francis in *The Name of God is Mercy. Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday by reflecting on God’s generosity in your life at [mercy.adw.org](http://mercy.adw.org).*

**Divine Mercy Devotions** – *Jesus is Divine Mercy in person* – The Second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday, established by Pope John Paul II on the day that he canonized Sister Faustina Kowalska in Rome (April 30, 2000). The special devotion to the divine mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina, and focuses on Jesus Christ as Divine Mercy in person, and mercy as the greatest of God’s attributes and perfections.

Join your parish family for Divine Mercy Devotions in the Cathedral today, Divine Mercy Sunday, **April 3**. Come for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately following the 1pm Spanish Mass (approximately 2:15pm) and the praying of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy (alternating in Spanish and English) at 3pm, concluding with Benediction. To learn more about Divine Mercy Sunday and devotions in honor of the divine mercy, visit <http://thedinemercy.org> or <http://www.ewtn.com/devotions/mercy/backgr.htm>.

**Did you know?** St. Matthew’s Cathedral is one of the pilgrimage sites designated for visitors to receive the plenary (total) indulgence for this Holy Year of Mercy! How can one do this? Here is some guidance:

1. Enter the Cathedral by the **Holy Door of Mercy** – near the Baptistry.
2. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) within 20 days before or after entering the Holy Door.
3. Participate in Mass and receive Holy Eucharist within 20 days before or after entering the Holy Door.
4. Pray for the Intentions of Pope Francis (we do this at every Mass).
5. Make a Profession of Faith by praying the Apostles Creed (prayed at every Rosary) or Nicene Creed (prayed every Sunday Mass and Holy Day).
6. You can also offer this indulgence for someone who has died.

For more information please pick up the [Pilgrimage to the Holy Door brochure](#) available at the Cathedral entrances.

## WELCOME

*Visitors to the Cathedral, we want you to know how welcome you are—whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or from another parish here in the Archdiocese or across the river. Thank you for praying with us. Thank you also for your generosity, which helps us to celebrate our liturgies in a fitting and beautiful way, and to offer a wide range of services to needy people in the Washington, DC area. Enjoy your visit!*

## FAITH FORMATION

**Adult Confirmation Preparation** – Each spring during the Easter Season, St. Matthew’s offers adult Confirmation preparation for active, baptized Catholics who have already received their First Eucharist. Preparation includes four Thursday evenings (April 14, 21, 28 & May 5) and one Saturday (May 7). The celebration of adult Confirmation in 2016 will be at a special Mass on Pentecost Sunday, **May 15**. Registration forms are available on the parish website. Register by **April 11**.

**Bible Study – “Palms to Psalms”** – This study, focusing on the Psalms from Holy Week and the Easter Season, will meet on Saturday, **April 9, 16, 23 and 30** from 10:30 to 11:45am in the East Conference Room. Fr. Jack Hurley is the Instructor. All are welcome.

**Spiritual Direction** – St. Matthew’s provides and refers interested persons to qualified spiritual directors. Contact Theresa Prymuszewski, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, at 202-587-5139 or [tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org).

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Thank You from the Rector** – On behalf of the entire parish community, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the volunteers who decorated the Cathedral for Easter, the lectors, hospitality ministers, servers, Eucharistic ministers, musicians, sacristans, RCIA sponsors, parish staff, priests, deacons, and all who contributed time and talent to the Cathedral during Holy Week and Easter. Please be assured of my gratitude and best wishes for a very blessed Easter season. —*Msgr. Jameson*

**Tour Guides Needed** – The Cathedral's status as a pilgrimage site during this Year of Mercy is attracting many visitors seeking guided tours. Our tour guide corps needs reinforcements! To inquire about training as a Cathedral Tour Guide, contact Gloria Harrington at [gharrington@stmatthews.cathedral.org](mailto:gharrington@stmatthews.cathedral.org) or Dan Evans at [devans@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:devans@stmatthewscathedral.org).

## OUTREACH

**Collecting Rice Bowl Donations** – Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl donations will be collected after every Mass this weekend, **April 2-3**. You may also turn in your Rice Bowl donations at the rectory.

**Easter Season Food Drive** – The Social Justice Committee invites you to participate in our parish's Easter Food Drive on **April 17**. We will collect canned goods, pastas, juice, and other nonperishables for our neighbors at Assumption Parish in SE, DC. We look forward to supporting their Pope Francis Outreach Center. Look for details in next weekend's bulletin. Questions? Email Fr. Rafael or Norma Canedo at [socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org).

## MARRIAGE

**Marriage at the Cathedral** – Couples who are interested in celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage at the Cathedral are encouraged to visit the parish website to review our guidelines for weddings. The next step is to call the Rectory at 202-347-3215 and ask for the priest of your choice or the priest on duty, who can speak to you about marriage preparation and the possibility of scheduling your wedding at the Cathedral. Couples are expected to contact us **at least nine (9) months in advance** of the date on which they hope to celebrate their wedding.

**Blessing of Engaged Couples** – On Sunday, **April 24**, couples who are to be married at the Cathedral or are receiving marriage preparation at St. Matthew's are invited to receive a blessing at the 11:30am Mass. To participate, email [reply@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:reply@stmatthewscathedral.org).

## BAPTISM

Parents who wish to have their child baptized at the Cathedral should contact the Baptismal Coordinator at 202-347-3215 x555 or [baptism@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:baptism@stmatthewscathedral.org). Parents are encouraged to contact us **at least six (6) months in advance** of a desired baptismal date, and may ask for the priest of their choice to perform the Baptism. Early contact allows parents to be scheduled for the necessary sacramental formation session and godparents to obtain letters from their pastor.

If you are a registered parishioner at St. Matthew's and need a letter of good standing in order to be a godparent for a baptism to be celebrated at another parish, please call the Cathedral rectory at 202-347-3215 to ask about obtaining a letter.

## VOCATIONS

**2016 Run for Vocations** – Run for Vocations registration is coming! Marine Corps Marathon 10K registration opens on **April 27**. Time to get your running shoes out and your team together! For more information visit [www.dcpriest.org](http://www.dcpriest.org) or search "Run For Vocations" on Facebook.

**Interested in Lay Contemplative Life?** – Come to an Open House with the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Community of Secular Discalced Carmelite men and women at the Carmelite Monastery (2131 Lincoln Rd., NE, Washington, DC) on Sunday, **April 17**, 9am - Noon. Enjoy Morning Prayer, Mass with the friars, silent prayer, lunch, and a chance to talk to community members. Contact: Kathi Cantolupo, Community President, at 703-491-5871 or [kncantolupo@hotmail.com](mailto:kncantolupo@hotmail.com).

## YOUNG ADULTS

**C†YA for Hospitality** – Sunday, **April 3 after 5:30pm Mass - North Conference Room** – Are you interested in learning more about events and opportunities offered by the Young Adults? Would you like to get more involved in our ministry? Stop by after Mass this Sunday as we host hospitality. Questions? Email [stmattsyam@gmail.com](mailto:stmattsyam@gmail.com).

**C†YA on Retreat** – **Saturday, April 16 - Sunday April 17 - Bellarmine Retreat Center, Waynesboro PA** – Mark your calendars for a Spring retreat with the Cathedral Young Adults in the peaceful Blue Ridge Mountains. Enjoy opportunities for personal prayer and reflection, fellowship, and a few outdoor adventures. More information will be available soon. To get involved email Hannah at [hannahrdell@gmail.com](mailto:hannahrdell@gmail.com).

## LECTURAS DE HOY

Los apóstoles se alegraron sobremanera cuando vieron al Señor resucitado. Estaban a puertas cerradas por miedo a los judíos, pero en medio de sus temores, Jesús apareció en persona y les causó alegría, consuelo y paz. Cuando el Señor se les apareció por primera vez faltaba un solo apóstol, Tomás. Más tarde, éste se negó a creer cuando sus compañeros le dijeron que habían visto a Jesús vivo nuevamente.

Para Tomás, la traición de Judas y la crucifixión de Jesús lo habían golpeado fuertemente y el mundo se le había venido abajo. ¡Pero qué sorpresa se llevó cuando vio que de repente Cristo se les apareció nuevamente, incluso después de que él había negado con tanta insistencia lo que sus amigos le habían contado! En un solo encuentro con Jesús, la duda y la tristeza dieron paso a una firme convicción y un gozo inefable.

Hoy celebramos el *Domingo de la Divina Misericordia*, instituido como celebración universal por San Juan Pablo II para tomar conciencia de que, si no fuera precisamente por la infinita e indescriptible misericordia de nuestro Padre celestial, todos estaríamos irremisiblemente perdidos e iríamos a la condenación eterna a la que nos llevaban nuestros propios pecados y maldades.

Esta misericordia se manifestó real y visiblemente en la vida, la muerte y la resurrección de Cristo Jesús, nuestro Señor, y el instrumento que Dios utilizó en nuestra época para enseñarnos a reconocer su misericordia divina y propagar la devoción fue Santa Faustina Kowalska, religiosa polaca canonizada por el mismo San Juan Pablo II en el año 2000.

Hoy es pues una ocasión perfecta para llevar a los pies de la cruz a todos los que no conocen a Jesús o se han resistido a entregarse a él e implorar el amor, el perdón y la misericordia de Dios sobre ellos.

*“Jesús, Señor mío, te ruego que concedas fe a los de corazón débil o indeciso y esperanza a los desanimados, y que derrames sobre ellos tu Misericordia Divina para que todos experimenten la vida, la paz y el gozo de tu presencia.”*

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## LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

**Domingo 3** He 5:12-16 / Apoc 1:9-11,12-13,17-19 / Jn 20:19-31

*Segundo Domingo de Pascua, Domingo de la Divina Misericordia*

**Lunes 4** Is 7:10-14 / Heb 10:4-10 / Lc 1:26-38

*La Anunciación del Señor*

**Martes 5** He 4:32-37 / Jn 3:7-15

*San Vicente Ferrer*

**Miércoles 6** He 5:17-26 / Jn 3:16-21

**Jueves 7** He 5:27-33 / Jn 3:31-36

*San Juan Bautista de la Salle*

**Viernes 8** He 5:34-42 / Jn 6:1-15

**Sábado 9** He 6:1-7 / Jn 6:16-21

**Domingo 10** He 5:27-32, 40-41 / Apoc 5:11-14 / Jn 21:1-19

## INTENCIONES DE MISAS MASS INTENTIONS

April 3 – 10

### Sunday, April 3

5:30pm Vigil (April 2) – Alfonso & Mercedes de Araque

7am – All Parishioners

8:30am – Deacon Ulysses Rice

10am – Moises Lopez

11:30am – Mr. John Hoops

1pm – Candido Menjivar

5:30pm – Nicole Shank (living)

### Monday, April 4

8am – Jimmy Fernandez

12:10pm – Gloria Maroni

5:30pm – Motie Family

### Tuesday, April 5

8am – Abigail Bastos dos Santos (living)

12:10pm – Joseph T. Kerrigan

5:30pm – John Medrano Family (living)

### Wednesday, April 6

8am – Richard Buckley

12:10pm – Frank M. Colin

5:30pm – Special Intention for mothers & unborn babies (living)

### Thursday, April 7

8am – Marco Cajas (living)

12:10pm – Special Intention for mothers & unborn babies (living)

5:30pm – Robert Hill

### Friday, April 8

8am – Special Intention for mothers & unborn babies (living)

12:10pm – Concesa A. Bongolan (living)

5:30pm – Theresa Placious

### Saturday, April 9

8am – Special Intention for mothers & unborn babies (living)

12:10pm – Lang Hoy Ngo

5:30pm – All Parishioners

### Sunday, April 10

7am – Patrocinio Guillermo

8:30am – Special Intention for mothers & unborn babies (living)

10am – Beverly Al-Mustafa

11:30am – Elinor Ahern

1pm – Esther Perez & José Moya

5:30pm – Ginelle H. Lewis-Nelson

*Se les recuerda a todas las personas que deseen ofrecer misas por sus difuntos, que tienen que reservarlas por lo menos con tres meses de antelación debido a que solo tenemos una misa en español.*

## NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA



**Domingo de la Divina Misericordia** – *Jesucristo es la misericordia divina en persona.* (Papa Benedicto XVI) Únase a su familia parroquial para la devoción de la Divina Misericordia en la Catedral, hoy domingo **3 de abril** a las 2 de la tarde. Venga a la Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento inmediatamente después de la misa de la 1 en español (aproximadamente a la 2:15), a las 3 de la tarde recitación de la coronilla (alternando en español e inglés) concluyendo con la Bendición.

¡ ¡ ¡ **Gracias !!!** – En nombre de toda la comunidad parroquial, quiero expresar mi más sincero agradecimiento a los voluntarios que ayudaron a decorar la Catedral: lectores, ujieres, monaguillos, ministros de la Eucaristía, músicos, sacristanes, padrinos del RICA, el personal de la Catedral, sacerdotes, diáconos y a todos los que contribuyeron con su tiempo y talento durante la Semana Santa y Pascua. Su esfuerzo hizo una gran diferencia. Estoy muy agradecido y les deseo una feliz época de Pascua.  
—*Monseñor Jameson*

**Domingo de Hospitalidad** – Únete a nosotros este domingo de Hospitalidad después de las misas de 8:30, 10, 11:30 de la mañana y 5:30 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Norte. ¡Todos son bienvenidos a este evento, esperamos contar con su presencia! ¿Interesado en ayudarnos con futuros eventos? Póngase en contacto con [stmattshospitality@gmail.com](mailto:stmattshospitality@gmail.com)

**Se recogen donaciones de los platos de arroz** – Las donaciones de los platos de arroz del programa caritativo de *Catholic Relief Services* se recogerán este fin de **semana 2-3 de abril**. También puede entregar sus donaciones a la rectoría. Las donaciones que se recogerán en nuestra diócesis ayudarán a esfuerzos globales y locales para apoyar a nuestros hermanos que viven en pobreza. Si tiene alguna pregunta, póngase en contacto con el padre Rafael o Norma Canedo al [socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org).

**Se cancela la misa semanal de 7 de la mañana** – La misa de 7 de la mañana de lunes, **4 de abril a viernes 8 de abril**, se está cancelando debido a que dos de nuestros sacerdotes de la rectoría están de vacaciones, y los sacerdotes externos que nos ayudan durante la semana no están disponibles. Sentimos esta

inconveniencia. La misa semanal de 7 de la mañana se reanudará el lunes **11 de abril**.

**Clases de Confirmación para Adultos** – Se ofrecerán clases de preparación para el sacramento de la Confirmación para adultos los domingos **10, 17, 24 de abril y 1 de mayo** de 11 de la mañana a 12:30 del mediodía. Las personas interesadas deben traer el certificado de bautizo vigente y es requerido asistir a la conferencia del **Opispo Mario Dorsonville** el martes **5 de abril**. Para más información e inscripción dejar un mensaje a Fátima al 202-347-3215 ext 543.

**Colecta de alimentos durante el tiempo de Pascua** – El Comité de Justicia Social los invita a participar en nuestra colecta de alimentos durante este tiempo de Pascua. Se recogerán comida enlatada, fideos, jugos y otros alimentos no perecederos para nuestros vecinos de la parroquia Asunción en SE, DC. Es un gran placer poder aportar al centro Pope Francis. Más detalles serán disponibles en el próximo boletín. ¿Preguntas? Mande un email a padre Rafael o Norma Canedo al [socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:socialjustice@stmatthewscathedral.org).

**Encuentro Matrimonial** – Comiencen la Pascua dándole a su matrimonio el regalo de un Fin de Semana del Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial. Así como las plantas necesitan agua y sol para crecer, los matrimonios necesitan momentos de reencuentro para renovar y hacer crecer su amor sin importar los años que tengan de casados. El Fin de Semana es una experiencia enriquecedora para todo matrimonio. Las fechas de los próximos Fines de Semana son: **9 y 10 de abril; y 21 y 22 de mayo**. Para inscribirse o pedir más información, llamar a Baltazar y Gloria Ortiz al 301-879-4411 o a Fidel y Edís Granados al 301-252-2946.

**Taller en español para Ministros de la Sagrada Comunión** – Este taller es para instruir a los fieles sobre cómo servir efectivamente como ministro de la Eucaristía en la parroquia, así como para llevar la comunión a los enfermos. Este taller es sobre todo, para aquellos que deseen obtener la certificación como un ministro, en la Arquidiócesis de Washington, pero está abierto a todos. El taller se realizará el sábado, **21 de mayo** de 9 de la mañana a 12 mediodía en el Centro Pastoral in Hyattsville (5001 Eastern Ave.). Una cuota de inscripción de \$ 5 será pagado en la puerta. Para inscribirse, vaya a [liturgy@adw.org](mailto:liturgy@adw.org) ó llame a la Sra. Maria Hamm 301-853-4594.

## Mercy – A Common Word; A Call to Action

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With good reason, Pope Francis has called the world's attention to the notion of mercy. He is emphasizing "mercy" in a special way by designating it as the principle focus of a "holy year" This "holy" year in 2016 is an extraordinary action because the Pope's action is beyond the normal pattern of holy year designations.

Most people are familiar with the meaning and use of the word "mercy." Still, the Pope's action suggests that we need to take a fresh look at a word which has become a somewhat mundane idea, but has deep roots in human activity, more so in light of Christ and his Gospel.

It might be well to understand some etymology of the word. It has its origins in the Latin word "merces" that the ancient Romans used to describe "the price paid for something or a reward for something done." Then, the early Christians adopted the word, giving it a much different meaning "to describe a spiritual reward for doing a kindness in response to an unkindness." A somewhat altered form of this is captured in the French word "merci" (thank you), meaning an appreciation of something done, but not requested. "Misericordia" is another Latin word commonly associated with mercy, derived from "miser" (anguished) and "cordis" (heart).

The Christian adaptation of the Latin/Roman concept stems from the call of Christ reiterated in Matthew's gospel (22:37-40): "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." This command began to be fulfilled from the earliest days of Christianity in the particular actions of the individual and the community. Overtime, these defined actions became codified by the Church, particularly by St. Thomas Aquinas, in what we know today as the "**corporal**" and "**spiritual**" works of mercy. In the history of the Church, many of these works of mercy became the founding principle of many apostolic communities of men and women.

The **corporal** works of mercy are seven and are generally derived again from Matthew's gospel (25:35-36, 40), and are associated with one's physical or external condition. They are given as: *feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the imprisoned, and visit the sick*; the last is from Tobit in the Old Testament: *bury the dead*.

In like manner, the **spiritual** works of mercy are concerned with the internal condition of the human person. They are given as: *instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, reconcile sinners, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the afflicted, and pray for the living and dead*. There are also specific scriptural citations considered the basis for each of these spiritual works.

As members of the Christian community, each of us is called this year, in a special way, to respond to Pope Francis' invitation to DO mercy, either as individuals or as part of some parish or other action group. As members of the cathedral community, in which the Archdiocesan Holy Year Door of Mercy is located, we are called to be particular examples of mercy.

To quote Pope Francis: Let us become agents of God's mercy!

■ Deacon Bartholomew Merella

## Misericordia – Una Palabra Común; Una Llamada a Acción

Con buena razón, el Papa Francisco ha llamado la atención del mundo con la noción de misericordia. Él enfatiza “misericordia” en una forma especial designándola como el foco principal de un “año santo” Este año “santo” en el 2016 es una acción extraordinaria, porque esta acción del Papa va más allá de la pauta normal de la designación del año santo.

La mayoría de las personas están familiarizadas con el significado y uso de la palabra “misericordia” aun así las acciones del Papa sugieren que necesitamos mirar de una forma especial a esta palabra la cual se ha convertido en una mundana idea, pero tiene raíces profundas en actividad humana, más en la luz de Cristo y su Evangelio.

Sería bueno entender la etimología de la palabra. Tiene sus orígenes en la palabra del latín “merces” que los romanos antiguos usaban para describir “el precio pagado por algo o premio por algo que se ha hecho”. Después los primeros cristianos adoptaron la palabra, dándole un significado diferente “describiendo un premio espiritual por hacer un acto de caridad en respuesta a un acto de crueldad.” Una forma alterada es captada en la palabra francesa “merci” (gracias), que quiere decir una apreciación de algo hecho, pero no requerido. “Misericordia” es otra palabra en latín asociada con mercy, derivada de “miser” (angustia) y “cordis” (corazón).

La adaptación cristiana del concepto latín/romano se deriva de la llamada de Cristo reiterada en el Evangelio de Mateo (22:37-40): “Amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo.” Este mandamiento empezó a cumplirse en los principios del cristianismo en las acciones particulares del individuo y de la comunidad. Después, esas acciones se codificaron por la Iglesia, particularmente por Santo Tomas Aquinas, en lo que se conoce hoy, como “**corporal y espiritual**” obras de misericordia. En la historia de la Iglesia, muchos de estas obras de misericordia llegaron a ser el principio de la fundación apostólica de muchas comunidades de hombres mujeres.

Las obras **corporales** de misericordia son siete y son derivadas de nuevo del Evangelio de San Mateo (25:35-36,40), y son asociadas con las condiciones físicas o externas de la persona. Estas son: *dar de comer al hambriento, dar de beber al sediento, vestir al desnudo, proveer techo al sin casa, visitar a los presos, y visitar al enfermo*; el último es de Tobías del Antiguo Testamento: *enterrar a los muertos*.

De la misma forma, las obras **espirituales** de misericordia conciernen con las condiciones internas de las personas. Estas son: *instruir al ignorante, aconsejar al que tiene dudas, reconciliar a los pecadores, llevar con paciencia los males, perdonar las ofensas, consolar al afligido, y rezar por los vivos y difuntos*. También hay citas específicas en las escrituras consideradas la base por cada una de estas obras espirituales.

Como miembros de la comunidad cristiana, cada uno de nosotros está llamado este año, en una forma especial, a responder a la invitación del Papa para HACER misericordia, tanto como individuos o como parte de alguna parroquia u otro grupo. Como miembros de la comunidad de la Catedral, en la cual la Puerta de la Arquidiócesis del Año Santo de la Misericordia está localizada, estamos llamados a ser particularmente ejemplos de misericordia.

Citando al Papa Francisco: ¡Seamos servidores de la misericordia de Dios!

Diácono Bartholomew Merella

# ST. MATTHEW'S WOMEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT

## April 22-24, 2016

All Women Parishioners and Friends are Welcome



*“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” (Mk 6:31)*

### Washington Retreat House

4000 Harewood Road, NE | Washington, DC 20017-1595

### Retreat Leader – Rev. Jacob Restrick, OP

Dominican Friar of the Province of St. Joseph  
and Chaplain to Dominican Cloistered Nuns

Check-in at Washington Retreat House is Friday, April 22 at 5:30PM (earlier or later arrival is fine also), followed by dinner at 6:30PM. The retreat ends around 12Noon on Sunday, April 24. For more information, contact Erin Cromer, St. Matthew's Retreat Promoter, at 202-580-9728 or emcromer3@gmail.com. A non-refundable \$25 deposit is required, with the balance due upon arrival.

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### Women's Retreat Registration Form

**MAIL TO:**

Erin Cromer  
P O Box 21590  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-580-9728

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservation(s) for the Weekend Retreat to be held April 22-24, 2016 at the Washington Retreat House. The offering is \$170.00. I understand that a \$25.00 non-refundable deposit will hold my reservation.

**Checks should be made payable to: Washington Retreat House.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_