We live in a world plagued by vengefulness, hatred and unforgiveness. This is not the situation God wants for us. In His immense love, He sent His Son to bring us His forgiveness, heal the wounds of our division, and teach us how to live as members of His family. On the day of his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples to give them his forgiveness and peace, and before ascending into heaven he sent them to the whole world to bring to all the good news of God's merciful love.

In this Eucharist, let us ask God’s mercy for us and the whole world, as we also forgive those who have offended us.

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

Entrance Antiphon
*(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)*

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Greeting

*P –* Blessed be the Lord our God who forgives all our sins. May His grace and peace be with you all!

*All –* And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

*P –* As we prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries, let us call to mind our sins and ask the Lord’s forgiveness and the grace to forgive our offenders. *(Pause)*

*P –* Lord our God, you are always ready to forgive repentant sinners, but we often refuse to forgive those who offend us. Lord, have mercy!

*All –* Lord, have mercy!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

*P –* Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

*All –* Amen!

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

1st Reading  
**Sir 27:30-28:7**

“Forgive, if you want to be forgiven” is the challenging message that comes to us from the sage Sirach in today’s Old Testament passage. In his typical didactic style he anticipates almost literally the teaching of Jesus Christ on this same topic – a teaching that is etched for ever in the Lord’s Prayer.

**FORGIVE US OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE . . .**

P – Christ Jesus, you taught Peter to forgive seventy times seven times, but we find it so hard to forgive even once. Christ, have mercy!

*All –* Christ, have mercy!

P – Lord Jesus, you forgave those who were nailing you to the cross, but we refuse to forgive even the slightest offenses. Lord, have mercy!

*All –* Lord, have mercy!

P – May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

*All –* Amen!

Gloria

*All –* Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

*All –* Amen!
17 September 2017

R — A proclamation from the Book of Sirach

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the Lord’s vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail.

Forgive your neighbor’s injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, yet seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins?

Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High’s covenant, and overlook faults.

The Word of the Lord!
All — Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 103

R — The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion!

* Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. R.

* He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion. R.

* He will not always chide, nor does he keep his wrath forever. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes. R.

* For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us. R.

2nd Reading Rom 14:7-9

In this short excerpt from his letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds them and us of a most consoling truth: Both in life and in death, we are the Lord’s. We are in the hands of a most loving Master.

R — A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. So then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

The Word of the Lord!
All — Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

All — Alleluia! Alleluia!

“My people, love one another as I have loved you.” Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 18:21-35

Forgiveness of offenses is an essential part of the teaching of Jesus Christ. In today’s parable of the merciless debtor, the Lord impresses on us that we should always be ready to forgive our offenders because we, too, need to be forgiven by God.

P — The Lord be with you!
All — And with your spirit!

P — A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All — Glory to you, O Lord!

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’ Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan.

When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, ‘Pay back what you owe!’ Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?’ Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord!
All — Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith
(Nicene Creed)

All — I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P – We are fully aware of our sinfulness and of the duty we have to forgive our offenders. Let us, then, ask the grace to be as merciful and compassionate as God is. Let our response be:

All – Merciful Lord, hear us!

C – For the universal and our local Church: May she be a clear sign and instrument of God’s merciful love for all human beings. Let us pray! R.

C – For the Holy Father and all our spiritual leaders: May they continue to inspire us with their magnanimity toward those who offend them. Let us pray! R.

C – For our civil leaders and other people in authority: May they set a good example in seeking reconciliation and collaboration with political opponents for the greater good of the country. Let us pray! R.

C – For the different social classes: May they learn to be fair to one another and work together for the promotion of social justice and peace. Let us pray! R.

C – For those affected by persecution and terrorist acts: May they forgive those who are responsible for their loss and find peace in God’s healing love. Let us pray! R.

C – Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (Pause)

Let us pray! R.

P – Lord God, help us to imitate Your Son Jesus Christ who forgive even those who crucified him. Grant us the grace to be the signs and instruments of Your forgiving love, and thereby promote the peace of the Kingdom where You live and reign for ever and ever.

All – Amen!

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Prayer over the Offerings

P – Look with favor on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants’ offerings, that what each has offered to the honor of your name may serve the salvation of all.

Through Christ our Lord.

All – Amen!

Preface IV

P – The Lord be with you!

All – And with your spirit!

P – Lift up your hearts!

All – We lift them up to the Lord!

P – Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All – It is right and just!

P – It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For his birth he brought re-newal to humanity’s fallen state, and by his suffering, canceled out our sins; by his rising from the dead, he has opened the way to eternal life, and by ascending to you, O Father, he has unlocked the gates of heaven.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

All – Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P – The mystery of faith!

All – We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All – Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P – This is the Lord Jesus who came to bring us the Father’s forgiveness. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All – Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.
Prayer after Communion

_P –_ May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us.

Through Christ our Lord.

_All –_ Amen!

**CONCLUDING RITES**

_P –_ The Lord be with you.

_All –_ And with your spirit!


_All –_ Amen!

_Congratulatio_ Lateralis

_P –_ The Lord be with you.

_P –_ And with your spirit.

_All –_ Amen!


_All –_ Amen!

Fatima Not Just a Devotion But Our Mission (Part 3)

*Glady V. Ramos*

(**Editor’s Note:** As we continue to celebrate the centenary of the Fatima apparitions, we continue to feature excerpts from an article published in *Word & Life*, August-September 2017 issue.)

**Time of Mercy**

Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, bestselling author of *33 Days to Morning Glory*, kept asking the attendees of the National Marian Congress at the SMX Convention Center, “What time is it?”

He said, “It’s the Time of Mercy.” He explained that we are right now experiencing the Time of Mercy, which the Lord had revealed to St. Faustina Kowalska. But after the Time of Mercy is the Day of Judgment. So Fr. Gaitley encouraged everyone to make good use of this time so that we can be ready when the Day of Judgment comes. He emphasized the importance of the devotion to the Divine Mercy and Consecration to Mary.

**33 Days to Morning Glory**

There is now some kind of movement or revolution in the US, Mexico, and other Latin American countries to do a Marian Consecration in order to fight the evils of this world, obtain peace, pray for the conversion of sinners, and make reparation for the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

And they are using Fr. Michael Gaitley’s *33 Days to Morning Glory*. His book more adequately prepares an individual to truly understand, appreciate, and live his/her consecration to Mary by culling from the writings and the lives of 4 Marian experts. These experts are: St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and St. John Paul II.

Fr. Gaitley wrote this book because, quoting from St. Louis de Montfort, *Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary* is “the surest, easiest, shortest and the most perfect means” to becoming a saint.

**33 Days to Morning Glory** is available at Word & Life Bookstore. Contact # (02) 894-5401/02 or email wordandlifepublications@gmail.com for inquiries and orders. For those in other countries, go to ShopMercy.org.

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