

MARCH 6, 2021
Saturday of the 2nd Week of Lent
Luke 15: 1-3,11-32

“GOD’S FACE OF MERCY.”

During the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in the year 2015-2016, Pope Francis spoke about who really God is – the God of mercy and compassion. This gospel and parable that we heard today was the main foundation of the celebration of that jubilee which pictured the forgiving father to the prodigal son. In the parable, the father’s action spoke loudly and clear, and no need of words to show his forgiveness. His giving back of his prodigal son’s beautiful robe, the ring and the celebration of the festive banquet are manifestation of new life which sums up with what he said to eldest son “because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”¹ This is the face of God taught by Jesus Himself. He gives a vibrant, vivid, and clear image of God and what and who God is like. God is truly caring than us and does not lose hope, give up and even stop looking, searching for us when we stray. Then, He rejoices in finding the lost and in welcoming us back to Him and be at home with Him. According to Pope Francis, “Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, “rich in mercy” (Eph 2:4), after having revealed his name to Moses as “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Ex 34:6), has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the “fullness of time” (Gal 4:4), when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. Jn 14:9). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.”² So, the parable is teaching us the way of forgiveness, the way of life of a Christian, hard it may be, to forgive one another. My brothers and sisters let us come back to the Lord, and open arms, He will embrace us tightly, love us more, and forgive all our sins, so don’t even think twice or hesitate, let us approach Him with love and humility.

¹ Luke 15: 32 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

² Misericordiae Vultus, www.vatican.va