



M O V E D B Y M E R C Y

We are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us.

P O P E F R A N C I S



He lay helpless and alone on the roadside, half dead from the robbers' merciless beating. Two travelers came upon the injured man, but rather than offer assistance, they simply avoided him. Finally, a third passerby "was moved with compassion at the sight" of him (Luke 10:33) and went out of his way to help.

In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, we can see ourselves in each person. Like the robbers, we have hurt others. Like the priest and the Levite, we have failed to show compassion. Like the injured traveler, we have suffered in body and spirit, feeling rejected and alone. Yet God never stops offering each of us his mercy, "a concrete reality with which he reveals his love" (MV 6).

We have been treated with mercy ourselves, and Jesus tells us to "go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37), giving us the roadmap of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

Each person "has a place in God's heart from all eternity" (AL 168). Within this context, Pope Francis reminds us, "we are called to protect our humanity, and this means, in the first place, accepting it and respecting it as it was created" (AL 56).

Like the Good Samaritan, may we always treat each person with merciful love and respect that affirms the gift of his or her life.



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