

# MOMENTS OF MERCY

## To my Brothers and Sisters in Saint Francis

Saint Francis was a remarkable saint. I do not think that anyone in our world today would live the life and do the things that he did, both him and Saint Clare.

They did exactly what Jesus said:  
Leave everything and follow me.  
Saint Francis was remarkable in the way he appreciated all living things.

He worshiped and appreciated everything:

The Sun,  
The Moon,  
The Water,  
The Animals,  
He appreciated Life,  
He appreciated Death,  
And preached Peace.  
(Canticle of the Sun)

I am always looking to read and to know more about the life of Saint Francis and Saint Clare.

In this Year of Mercy,  
Let us pray for Peace and Mercy  
for all of us.

Anthony Michael D'Angelico, OFS  
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity  
Staten Island, New York

## The Year of Divine Mercy

As Franciscans, we are frequently reminded of going from Gospel to life, and in considering this year of Divine Mercy, Pope Francis' words in proclaiming this year in *Misericordiae Vultus*, are particularly relevant for us as Franciscans. The Holy Father writes, "As we can see in Sacred Scripture, mercy is a key word that indicates God's action toward us." And the

Holy Father continues, "In order to be capable of mercy, therefore, we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God. This means rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the Word that comes to us. In this way, it would be possible to contemplate God's mercy and adopt it as our lifestyle." So, as Franciscans, we can grow in an appreciation of not only our vocation, but in the mercy of God, by constantly going back to Scripture, to meditating and praying with the Scriptures, particularly the Gospels.

Fr. Matthias' Message  
Rev. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM, Cap.  
Regional Spiritual Assistant

## Moments of Mercy

What is the opposite of indifference? After reading through *Misericordiae Vultus*, we see that being compassionate is the opposite of indifference. Pope Francis encourages us not to "fall into humiliating indifference or a monotonous routine that prevents us from discovering what is new! Let us ward off destructive cynicism! Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help!" (MV, no. 15). How easy it is in today's society to ignore the cries of those in need and to become cynical about the state of the world around us. We might feel that our small acts of mercy cannot really change anything. But the indifference of the world will not change until we start showing the compassionate love and mercy of God toward everyone we meet and become more involved in our communities.

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