

# “*Mercy Meets Need*”

## Fourth Reflection for the Jubilee of Mercy

### *What Is Mercy?*

Let us remind ourselves of what mercy is as we continue this great extraordinary Jubilee Year.

What is Mercy? Mercy is the application of charity to the needs of another person. This means that the act of loving selflessly, as God does, manifests itself by filling up something that is lacking in someone else’s life. God lacks nothing but we lack much.

### Part of Something Greater

For most people life is a quest of always becoming part of something bigger than yourself. Even though our families protect us we as children are drawn to other individuals and families. Then we are part of school classes and loyal members of our student bodies. We join clubs and societies to continually learn from others and to enjoy the uniqueness of many people which expands the breadth of our experience of God’s family. In the modern world we are now attracted to the whole world through social media and easy travel. One of the most important communities to be part of historically have been churches.

For most of our lives our personal experience of church is very local. Our local parish wherever we happened to have lived was our contact with faith. We may have met the bishop at confirmation time but a chancery or a cathedral seemed distant or not in the normal orbit of life. We may very well have visited other cathedrals during our travels more than our own St. Cecilia’s. Churches are often tourist destination points no matter where you go. Is there a reason for you to go to your own cathedral? During the Jubilee Year the Cathedral will make its mark as the local font of God’s mercy. It does so because the one that Rome has sent to be responsible with providing and nurturing the mercy of God guides these efforts from there liturgically and spiritually. By teaching and praying a bishop guides the faithful to mercy by leading them to the foot of the Cross where all good was accomplished. He then encourages all to go forward and share the message of mercy through word and action. *Are you connected to groups or people that are limited or limitless?*

When you stand in the Cathedral you quickly realize that you are part of something much greater which has been built through the blood of martyrs and the sacrificial generosity of the rich and poor. The word of God when sung and preached there more clearly speaks to the mind and heart. You stand in a great structure that mirrors the Catholic Church because it is permanent and not going away, it has room for whoever wishes to hear about and enjoy God’s mercy and it fulfills the need of its visitors to feel that they are part of something greater which permeates every place for all time. *The Lord speaks here but are you willing to listen and reply to His questions?*

### Becoming Greater Than We Are

The Jubilee of Mercy takes into consideration the needs of all whose true needs are not being met. The fulfillment of knowing and loving others is never one sided. Just like the Holy Trinity of three persons all must contribute toward the union of love. The testimony of a cathedral echoing the voice of the Church’s local shepherd calls across the land to all who wish to be reassured of God’s love and mercy. The priests who have served you in your local parish were ordained at St. Cecilia’s. The guiding homilies for the major events that give encouragement and guidance to the whole archdiocese are preached there. All deacons are ordained there to go forth and serve the people. These and more are the things that help make the Catholics in our parishes greater than they could be on their own in life. *Do you live in or do you ever go to Omaha for any reason? Do you feel a great sense of oneness with your bishop and the bishop of Rome? It is time this year to celebrate that or to seek it within the walls of St Cecilia’s if you have not done so recently.*