

Sisters and Brothers, may God's mercy be upon us.

Our Gatherings - We continue our cautious stance regarding restarting our Sunday Gatherings due to the elevated risk on COVID-19. As the Coordinators discern a change we will communicate this via email, our [website](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

Living our Covenant - As we continue our individual and collective efforts to live our covenant in these trying times, those with internet access are encouraged to take advantage of online services and resources. We have shared playlists and our website www.GodsDelight.org as significant resources. Some small groups and Areas are having online conference calls and using other creative ways to connect in socially safe ways.

Please continue sharing the Spiritual Gifts with one another and with the Coordinators and please let us know if you have unmet needs that your covenant sisters and brothers can help with.

Please continue to donate online at www.GodsDelight.org or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222 as we are dependent on your generosity to meet our ongoing financial needs.

Reflection - The homily that Laurie and I listened to this morning focused on the mercy of God and the value of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Throughout the homily the priest shared the many "Do's and Don'ts" of the Christian walk. My attention was brought immediately to our men's group that is finishing reading Francis De Sales' book [Authentic Devotion](#). The book covers a series of letters of spiritual guidance. As I reflected on the homily and the book what the Holy Spirit brought to my mind was the tremendous blessing the Christian Community of God's Delight has been, to me, and to so many others.

As I read each section of the book, I could recall hearing a teaching on that topic as a member of CCGD. As I listened to father's homily on the mercy of God and forgiveness and reconciliation, I could recall hearing teachings on these topics as well. As a covenant community we have been SO blessed by the Holy Spirit's

outpouring and the Yes of so many members over the decades of our life together. May I add my thank you to the long list of Thank You's for so many of your Yes' in building the Community of God's Delight!

But how are we to respond today to this message?

One way is to be mindful of the source. Satan, the false accuser, tries to rob us of our peace, of our confidence in God's love and mercy. This can be an even stronger threat during times of isolation and physical separation. We need to be careful in our discernment to distinguish between the Holy Spirit calling us deeper in our relationship with God and that of Satan who accuses us. Test the message. Determine the source. Do not let Satan bring us down through falsehoods. Stand on God's promises. "Phone a friend" and be humble and candid so a sister or brother in the Lord can help our discernment.

Another way is to follow the steps we have been taught to be reconciled. For Catholics, we follow the steps of reconciliation: a) examine our conscience, b) allow ourselves to be moved to deep sorrow and contrition, c) acknowledge the wrong doing, d) decide to change, e) put our confession to words, f) receive our penance, and g) receive absolution. This is the path to freedom, to removing the weight of sin. God's love and mercy is brimming over if we but ask. Even if we are unable to partake of the physical sacrament, we can follow this process and pray through it and ask for God's love and mercy and then claim His promise. If we need an aid to prompt our examination of conscience consider the quote "*Too often we judge other groups by their worst examples, while judging ourselves by our best intentions.*"

Living in God's mercy is not *just* about discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit and rejecting Satan's accusations, it is not *just* about avoiding judging others and being reconciled when we fail, it involves being immersed in God's love and mercy (Matthew 5:7, Psalm 103:8, Exodus 34:6-7, Luke 6:35-36). *The deeper we mature in understanding and living in God's mercy the greater our sense of our own unworthiness, the greater our sense of our total dependence on God and His mercy, leading to our merciful encounters with the weaknesses of others. May we*

each mature in our understanding of God's mercy and surrounding ourselves with His promises and abiding love so we can be His mercy to others.

Let us pray together *"Heavenly Father, I have failed in showing mercy, I have failed to love others as you love me. I am sorrowful for the hurt that I have caused you and caused others. I know I have failed and resolve to change. I cannot do it alone. I am totally dependent on Your love and mercy. Forgive me of my wrongdoing, wash me of my sin, heal my brokenness and repair any hurt. I resolve to avoid this sin and claim Your love and mercy and forgiveness. I rejoice in You, I rejoice in Your love and mercy! Thank You for saving me and loving me and surrounding me with covenant brothers and sisters who love me! Amen."*

God bless,

David