

DIVES IN MISERICORDIA

ON DIVINE MERCY

The concept of "mercy" in the Old Testament has a long and rich history.

We have to refer back to it in order that the mercy revealed by Christ may shine forth more clearly.

By revealing that mercy both through His actions and through His teaching, Christ addressed Himself to people who not only knew the concept of mercy, but who also, as the People of God of the Old Covenant, had drawn from their age - long history a special experience of the mercy of God.

This experience was social and communal, as well as individual and interior. [...]

The truth, revealed in Christ, about God the "Father of mercies," enables us to "see" Him as particularly close to man especially when man is suffering, when he is under threat at the very heart of his existence and dignity...

And this is why, in the situation of the Church and the world today, many individuals and groups guided by a lively sense of faith are turning, I would say almost spontaneously, to the mercy of God.

They are certainly being moved to do this by Christ Himself, who through His Spirit works within human hearts. [...]

In fact, revelation and faith teach us not only to meditate in the abstract upon the mystery of God as "Father of mercies," but also to have recourse to that mercy in the name of Christ and in union with Him.



John Paul II

Encyclical Dives in Misericordia