

We are called to show mercy

*J*esus affirms that mercy is not only an action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are.

In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us.

Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves.

At times how hard it seems to forgive!

And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart.

To let go of anger, wrath, violence, and revenge are necessary conditions to living joyfully.

Let us therefore heed the Apostle's exhortation: "Do not let the sun go down on your anger" (Eph 4:26).

Above all, let us listen to the words of Jesus who made mercy an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7): the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in this Holy Year.

Misericordiae Vultus, 9