

JUNE 2025 PRAYER SERVICE

Reflecting on Pope Leo XIV's Weekly General Audience and the Parable of the Good Samaritan given on May 28, 2025

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As we get to know the new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, let us reflect on his thoughts from his weekly General Audience in St. Peter's Square.

The article from Vatican News can be found here:

[Pope Leo: Compassion is a matter of humanity, not a religious issue - Vatican News](#)

The Catholic Church teaches that compassion is a virtue rooted in recognizing the dignity of all human beings and is a key aspect of Christian love. It is not merely a humanistic sentiment but a profound participation in the suffering of others, reflecting the mercy of God.

Here's what the Catholic Church teaches about compassion:

Rooted in Christian Love: Compassion is a social manifestation of Christian love, recognizing the inherent dignity of every person. This love is motivated by Christ, who identifies Himself with the destitute.

A Reflection of God's Mercy: Compassion is a key word in the Gospel, reflecting the steadfast attitude of Christ's heart, in which God's mercy is incarnate. Jesus' compassion is not just an occasional emotion but a consistent attitude.

An Active Virtue: Christian compassion is not simply feeling sorry for others; it involves concrete action, solidarity, and sharing in the distress of those in need. It means getting involved in a personal way to transform suffering into joy.

Overcoming Indifference: Cultivating compassion means shaking off indifference and recognizing the needs of those around us, freeing ourselves from materialism.

Universal Love: Compassionate love knows no enemies, only brothers and sisters, and it compels us to heal, console, and care for those who suffer.

Following Jesus' Example: Jesus showed compassion by drawing near to those in pain, healing them, and taking on their marginalization. He is the compassionate Redeemer who seeks out the outcast and those without hope.

Essential for Justice: The Church emphasizes that compassion and tangible love are essential, especially towards the least of our brothers and sisters, as we will be judged on love in the evening of life.

Against Marginalization: Compassion leads to concrete action to reinstate the marginalized, reflecting Jesus' desire to include and heal those on the peripheries of society.

A Virtue for All: All Christians are called to "clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness," recognizing the needs of our neighbors as our own. This is not a sign of weakness but of strength, understanding that true importance comes not from mistreating others but from serving them.

Hopeful Solidarity: Christian compassion is synonymous with solidarity and sharing, enlivened by hope in Christ's Kingdom. It involves a daily commitment to treating others with the same mercy and goodness we desire for ourselves.

In summary, the Catholic Church views compassion as a core Christian virtue that embodies God's mercy, calls for active engagement in alleviating suffering, and promotes a society rooted in love, justice, and solidarity.

Questions for reflection:

1. How does compassion relate to the sacraments?
2. How does compassion inform the Eucharist?
3. Is compassion a form of charity?

TIME FOR SCRIPTURE:

Luke 22:14-20

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION:

SHARED PRAYER ON SCRIPTURAL TEXT:

The intent is reflection in the form of a prayer, not discussion.

PRAYER INTENTIONS:

- Pass card or cross, so people can pass gracefully and the team knows when the prayer is complete.
- The team should respond at the end of each person's turn, for example, "Lord, hear our prayer".

LITURGICAL PRAYER:

Psalm 146

Response: I will praise the Lord all my life, sing praise to my God while I live.

Put no trust in princes, in children of Adam powerless to save.

Who breathing his last, returns to the earth; that day all his planning comes to nothing.

Response: I will praise the Lord all my life, sing praise to my God while I live.

*Blessed the one whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord, his God,
The maker of heaven and earth, the seas and all that is in them.*

Response: I will praise the Lord all my life, sing praise to my God while I live.

*Who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed,
Who gives bread to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free.*

Response: I will praise the Lord all my life, sing praise to my God while I live.

*The Lord gives sight to the blind.
The Lord raises up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.*

Response: I will praise the Lord all my life, sing praise to my God while I live.

*The Lord protects the resident alien, comes to the aid of the orphan and the widow,
But thwarts the way of the wicked. The Lord shall reign forever.*

Response: I will praise the Lord all my life, sing praise to my God while I live.

CONCLUSION OF PRAYER TIME:

ALL: *Loving God,*

*We come before you, seeking a heart filled with compassion. Open our eyes to see the suffering
of those around us and soften our hearts to feel their pain as our own.*

*Grant us the grace to follow the example of Jesus, who showed compassion to all, especially
the marginalized and forgotten. Help us to be instruments of your mercy, bringing comfort,
healing, and hope to those in need.*

*Remove any indifference or selfishness that may hinder us from reaching out to others. Fill us
with a spirit of generosity and selflessness, so that we may share our time, talents, and
resources with those who are less fortunate.*

*May our actions be guided by love and our words be filled with kindness. Help us to create a
world where compassion reigns, and where all people are treated with dignity and respect.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

DEEP POOLING:

This is a time to share on more serious matters or when the input of the group is requested. This will not necessarily happen at all meetings.

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS:

We join teams in order to enlist the help of others in growing closer to God. The “endeavors” are practices which we voluntarily assume. They have been found to be a means of drawing us closer as a couple and in furthering our spiritual growth. By sharing on the endeavors at the team meeting we seek help and encouragement from our teammates in our journey.