

**BEC REFLECTION**  
**SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Theme: Sharing God's mercy to the needy**

**Focus: To bring about God's mercy and compassion to those who are in need**

**Opening Hymn: Go tell everyone**

God's spirit is in my heart  
He has called me and set me apart  
This is what I have to do  
What I have to do

*Chorus:*

He sent me to give good news to the poor  
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more  
Tell blind people that they can see,  
And set the downtrodden free  
And go tell everyone  
The news that the kingdom of God has come  
And go tell everyone  
The news that the kingdom of God has come

Just as the Father sent me  
So I'm sending out to be  
My witnesses throughout the world  
The whole of the world

**Opening prayer** – Invite a member of the BEC to say the opening prayer

**Look at life**

*Christ calls on all of us to bring about God's mercy and compassion to those in need. Here's the story of one woman who does so through ministering to prisoners.*

Susan has just joined the prison ministry in her parish and was just beginning her weekly routine in the prison, which normally starts with Holy Mass. One day when celebrating Mass, the priest collapsed on the altar. As Father received medical attention, one of the inmates went to the podium and led everyone in praying *The Divine Mercy Chaplet* for him. When the prison officers raced into the chapel, they were amazed to find the inmates devoutly and orderly praying *The Divine Mercy Chaplet*.

The following week, one of the inmates asked Susan how Father was feeling and to find out what "magic" the chaplet seemed to possess. "Magic?" She responded. "Not magic, but mercy and forgiveness!"

To be forgiven is one of the greatest joys in life. By teaching the inmates *The Divine Mercy Chaplet* and its promises from the *Diary of St. Faustina*, Susan hopes to give them the tools for salvation and conversion not only for themselves but also in praying for others, especially the dying.

*Reflection:*

Where do you see God's mercy being shared to the needy in the story above? Why?

**Listen to God**(Matt 25:31 – 46)

'When the Son of man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All nations will be assembled before him and he will separate people one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."

Then the upright will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

Then he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food, I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink, I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, lacking clothes and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or lacking clothes, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the upright to eternal life.'

**Reflection**

- Be silent for a minute and allow God to speak to you
- Pick out a word or short phrases from the text above and repeat it three times
- Share with others the word or phrase that has touched you and why?

**Live in Love**

In this year of mercy, what other ways can my BEC bring about God's mercy to the poor and needy?

**Concluding prayer**

Invite another member of the BEC to say the concluding prayer

**Concluding hymn: I have decided to follow Jesus**

I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
No turning back, no turning back.

**Food for thought:**

Corruption prevents us from looking to the future with hope, because its tyrannical greed shatters the plans of the weak and tramples upon the poorest of the poor. It is an evil that embeds itself into the actions of everyday life and spreads, causing great public scandal. Corruption is a sinful hardening of the heart that replaces God with the illusion that money is a form of power. It is a work of darkness, fed by suspicion and intrigue. If we want to drive it out from personal and social life, we need prudence, vigilance, loyalty, transparency, together with the courage to denounce any wrongdoing. If it is not combated openly, sooner or later everyone will become an accomplice to it, and it will end up destroying our very existence.

- Pope Francis, MV #19