

July 4, 2025

Daily Reflections



I DESIRE MERCY, NOT SACRIFICE

By Sister Bernie Inocencio, CSJ

Excerpt from Today's Gospel

“Go and learn the meaning of the words,

I desire mercy, not sacrifice.

I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

MATTHEW 9:13

Reflection

The image below captures the profound spiritual truth that mercy and love are an extension of divine glory. In this composition, Jesus -- as the hungry and homeless -- blends his presence with a woman embodying his mercy and kindness. The connection between their figures is fluid, suggesting a seamless unity between human compassion and the Divine, implying close union with God.

The lighting plays a crucial role in expressing transformation. At first, the woman is in shadow, engaging in acts of care — feeding, sheltering, loving. As the composition progresses, Jesus' glory emerges through her actions, illuminating both figures in a radiant and transformative glow. Somehow it seems that human mercy transcends and emerges as divine sanctity.

The image reflects impressionist fluidity and surrealist dream-like qualities—soft edges emphasize warmth and movement, while surreal distortions suggest a spiritual revelation unfolding beyond physical perception.

Without words, the image conveys the message that serving the least among us is an act of worship, a process of sanctification — love becomes the bridge between heaven and earth. It is as if you reached out to the sky and have touched the tassels of Jesus's garment. It invites viewers into reflection, asking them to see Jesus in those they care for and to see his glory revealed through their own hands.



Image created by Sister Bernie Inocencio, CSJ

For Pondering

I invite you to ponder the image and the reflection. Read the words slowly a couple of times.

- Remember an act of service you have done. What prompted you to do the act of service? How did doing the service make you feel?
- What does mercy mean to you?
- How do the words in the reflection sit with you? How can you relate to those words?
- Be attentive to any feelings that emerge. What do the feelings prompt in you?

For Prayer

*O Love Divine!
Teach us to be merciful.
Open our eyes that we may see Your face
in every person we meet.
Open our ears that we may hear
even the quiet sobs of the poor and oppressed.
Open our hearts that we may love like you,
love without borders.
May we be Divine Love transformed
in this beautiful yet wounded world.
May we, in so doing,
touch you in eternity.
Amen.*

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