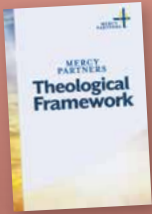


2018



Mercy is Communion





Gathering: The *Theological Framework* reinforces the centrality of communion within the Christian story and situates the essence of God’s mercy in relationship. Our Trinitarian God is a God of communion – a God expressed in human community. God also manifests love and mercy towards the whole of creation. Every aspect of our beautiful world reveals God’s ongoing revelation. We are called to be co-creators with God in sustaining our communities and our world in love and mercy.

From the *Theological Framework*

And yet the gifts of identity and promise elicit a personal response. The redemption of the human family requires collaboration. The God who creates the world also invites people into becoming fully human in their togetherness, embodying right relations with God and neighbour and thus creating a truly human community (Genesis 18:18). But this creation does not happen in an instant. It develops over time according to an ever-deepening conversion of peoples’ minds and hearts in their openness to God (Ezekiel 11:19-20). The story of this creativity and development, this ongoing conversion, describes a history of salvation.

For personal reflection

To what communities do you belong? How do you contribute to the creation of community?

SCRIPTURE
PASSAGE

Matthew 18:20

“Jesus said: For where two or three are

Reading

God is not even static within Godself as such. God in God's deepest identity is relationship, a communion. "In the remotest beginning," Brazilian theologian Leonardo Boff writes of the Trinity, "communion prevails." This life in communion spills out into creation, healing and sanctifying, calling all of creation, according to its capacity, into that communion, and once in that communion, sending that creation forth to gather still more of it into communion. It is though God as such is a dance – a great conga line, I like to imagine – moving through the world, inviting the world – material creations, human beings – to join in the dance. And the more that join the more attractive joining becomes.

– Stephen Bevans SVD, *The Mission Has a Church: An Invitation to the Dance*. Read the full document at goo.gl/oniFgy.

God's basic method of communicating God's self is not the "saved" individual, the rightly informed believer, or even personal careers in ministry, but the journey and bonding process that God initiates in community: in marriages, families, tribes, nations, events, scientists, and churches who are seeking to participate in God's love, maybe without even consciously knowing it.

– Richard Rohr OFM, *Community*. Read the full document at goo.gl/nv8wWv.

Discussion

What nurtures relationships in your community?

Prayer

Creator God,

You have revealed yourself to us most powerfully in our relationships with others.

Help us to be open to your call to love.

Inspire us to create and develop communities of mutual belonging.

Bless our ministries and the connections they nurture.

Amen.

Reference: *Mercy Partners Theological Framework*,
Chapter 2 – The Experience of God's Mercy.

READ MORE

You can read more on covenant and community from the scriptures in:
Genesis 26:28-29,
Hebrews 10:24-25,
Romans 12:4-5,
Galatians 3:28-29.

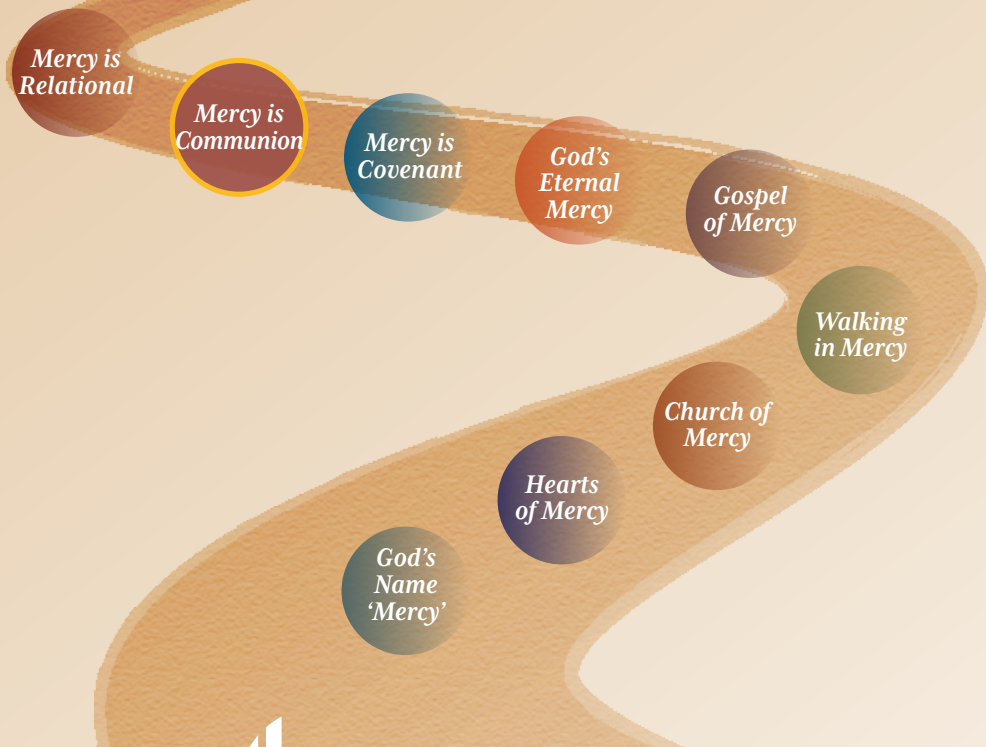
gathered in my name, I am there among them”



2 Mercy is Communion

The Path of God's Mercy

A journey in scripture, church and human experience



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