THE MERCY OF GOD

Meaning

1. In general, mercy is love overcoming human misery
2. In God
   a. Divine mercy is God's goodness shown to those in need
   b. God's mercy is His love toward those who are in pain
   c. His mercy is especially His love toward sinners, whose sins deprive them of a claim on God's justice

Explanation

1. The most authoritative teaching on divine mercy is Pope John Paul II's Dives in Misericordia, 1980.
2. In this encyclical, the Holy Father declares
   a. Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God's mercy
   b. Mercy is love drawing God out of evil
   c. God's mercy is the model of what our mercy should be
   d. St. Luke is the great evangelist of God's mercy
   e. God's love becomes mercy when it is shown to human beings who had sinned
   f. God provides opportunities for us to practice mercy toward those who have offended us.
   g. Our mercy to others is the measure of God's mercy to us
   h. Modern preoccupation with justice is commendable, but for Christians justice is not enough. Mercy must be added to justice, if insistence on justice is not to become cruelty.
   i. The Church has the duty to proclaim God's mercy to a suffering humanity.

Analysis

Implications

1. God's mercy is adorable. We are to honor and praise God for His infinite mercy
2. His mercy should evoke our gratitude, shown by our mercy toward others
3. His mercy should move us to conversion; God is merciful but only to the truly repentant.
4. In sorrow, in expiation, in amendment of life, His mercy inspires our petitions. Having been so forgiving in the past, what can we not expect for the future?