

# THE MERCY OF GOD IS LIKE A WHITE SHEET OF PAPER

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In a planning retreat for the birth of Jesus, we made a sign that helped us to visualize the Mercy of God in our lives: we wrote in pencil, on a sheet of paper some characteristics or any action that we wanted to change. In the afternoon, at the time for prayer, we placed this role of paper in water and then removed it quickly. The paper was blank. What we had written in it was erased.

The sign allowed us to understand that the love of God is mercy. That each day, when we whispers “good night”, our role of paper is once again made anew in white, so that we are able to begin the following day without any marks, or corrections, or underlines stating what is wrong. The merciful love of God means that we can fully enjoy feeling that we are his beloved children.

In Jesus, the visible face of the Father-Mother of heaven, we learn to feel and live mercy in this way. By looking to Him, in the light of the ideology of the lay Claretians, leads us to understand life with some very specific accents that are an invitation to reflect on who we are and what we do: "As sons and daughters of God, we try to imitate His perfection, His love for all and His preference for the humble and the poor. In this way we are an expression of the love with which God loves" (Ideology SC, 32).

To find ourselves in the world, in the complexity of the realities of secular life and in relationship with others from the experience of the mercy of God; this calls for a response that is in line with our charism.

We are called to form families where there is hospitality, dialogue, assistance, forgiveness... which becomes the engine of the same. We are called to live our professions by putting people above of the projects and the objectives by working with them. We are invited to engage in social and political commitments, but always looking at building a more just world. We are committed to making an option for the poor, to re-claim and fight for their dignity. We are called to follow an austere life that helps us to put ourselves in the place of those who are most in need and to share with them who we are and what we have.

We find in Mary the Mother of a generous and merciful heart, to always be attentive to the needs of others. Following her example, we try to respond with generosity and love, above all, for the weakest. It is our way of bringing to life the invitation of Jesus: "You received without paying, give without pay" (Mt 10: 8).

Is it be possible to have a Claretian vocation ministry that also summons the laity to live from our charism the common vocation of our baptism?