

Rocca di Papa, 20th June 1975

From the talk on the beatitudes to the Gen 3 Congress¹

(...)

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy

In our society there are a lot of underprivileged people who are pushed to the margins of society, and yet there is so much talk about equality. But is there anyone who really loves and is a sincere friend to the poor, to repentant sinners, to people in trouble, as if they were blameless and fortunate and equal to everyone else? Is there anyone who forgives and forgets the offenses they have received?

The saints are the ones who did this because they understood what Jesus taught. They went against the flow and lived with lepers until they caught that disease themselves (like Father Damian); they went to be with migrants to share their terrible hardships (like Frances Cabrini); they went to be with prisoners (like Giuseppe Cafasso) and some (like the Our Lady of Ransom Fathers) even took the place of slaves, so they could go free, when they didn't have enough money to pay the ransom.

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To sum up: the merciful, whom Jesus calls blessed, are people who open their hearts to everyone in need and to sinners through the works of mercy and forgiveness, as he did. He healed the sick, raised the widow's son from the dead and he always forgave, even when he was on the cross.

Now Jesus is very demanding about forgiveness. In the 'Our Father' he even tells us to say "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us," and he often says to us, "If you forgive other people, your Heavenly Father will forgive you too."

¹ The prepared text that was then read by Silvana Veronesi