

## Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Church

Catholic Book Discussion Group: *Beautiful Mercy*

September 22, 2016: Chapters 10 and 11, pages 117 – 144

### DISCUSSION OUTLINE

1. We began reading *Beautiful Mercy* on April 21, 2016. After 5 months, what have you learned about “mercy”? Has your understanding of “mercy” changed in any way? Do the Latin roots for the word, “Mercy”, help you in any way better understanding our vocation to be merciful like our heavenly Father? (page120)
2. What did “to counsel the doubtful” and “to admonish the sinner” mean to you before reading *Beautiful Mercy*? How has your understanding of these two Spiritual Works of Mercy changed after reading Chapters 10 and 11? How would you describe/explain these two works of mercy to someone who doubts and to someone who acknowledges being a sinner?
3. The authors of the various articles describe these Works of Mercy as “messy” (page 125) and having the possibility of driving people from the Church (page 133). Do you agree or disagree with these observations?
4. In your own words tell the story of “Jerry” (page 134) Tell the story of “Mel”. (page 139) Why do the authors tell these stories in their articles?
5. We are all called to counsel the doubtful and admonish the sinner. What qualities are needed by someone who desires to counsel the doubtful and/or admonish the sinner?

6. Sister Helena Burns writes: "The doubtful are an immense mission field". (page125) What does Sister mean by this? How is her idea connected with the words of Pope John Paul II which she quotes immediately?
  
7. Does the world in which we live and the Church that we are a part of make it harder or easier to practice the Spiritual Works of Mercy today? (reread page 140)
  
8. "People should be able to say of us: 'If our God is anything like you, I want to know him.'" (page 128) What is Sister Helena reminding us of?
  
9. Daniel Burke writes: "Admonishing the sinner in mercy is the all-important task of helping people understand they are off the path to God and lighting the way back to that path through love and truth." (page 144) How do we help someone notice they are off the path? How do we light the path to come home?
  
10. Any other thoughts, ideas, questions, observations, insights you wish to share....