Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Church
Catholic Book Discussion Group: *Beautiful Mercy*
October 20, 2016: Chapters 13 and 14, pages 151 – 178

DISCUSSION OUTLINE

1. We are called to continue the Presence of Jesus in the world today. Chapter 13 calls us to live the Spiritual Work of Mercy: *Forgive Offenses Willingly.*
   - Where is this lived in the Life of Jesus?
   - Where is this written about in the Gospels?
   - How is this lived in your life?

2. Father James Mallon writes: "Quite simply, God's mercy is not fair." (page 153) What does Father Mallon mean by this? Do you agree? Disagree?

3. On page 156, Father Mallon writes: "Indeed, when we contemplate our injuries and those who inflict them upon us, we see that some may still be inexcusable, but none will be unforgiveable." What is the difference between "inexcusable" and "unforgivable"?

4. "Few people understand what forgiveness really is." (page 157) Father Schmitz then goes on to tell us what forgiveness *is not.* For you, what is "forgiveness"?

5. "The one who truly forgives has made the decision to tell the truth." (page 159) What truth needs to be told? Needs to be recognized?

6. The "key" to living "forgive offenses willingly" is this according to Father Schmitz: "While justice demands that you give me back what you owe me, I will not make you pay me back. I release you from your debt." What does this mean?

7. In reflecting upon *praying for the living and the dead*, Msgr. Pope writes: "Prayer changes everything". (page 171) Do you believe this? Has prayer ever changed anything in your life?

8. Tell the story of Armand. (pages 175ff). At the end, Armand says: "See, I told you my father wouldn't forget us". What does the story have to do with the Spiritual Works of Mercy?

9. Can our study, reflection upon, praying over the Works of Mercy all be summarized in the words of Pope Saint John Paul II: "Make yourselves saints, and do so quickly"?

10. The Year of Mercy is almost over. We have finished reading and discussing *Beautiful Mercy*. What concrete, specific actions are you going to take to make sure you continue to be "merciful like the heavenly Father"? Care to share them with us – so that your thoughts might help us on our spiritual journeys?