

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Parish
Catholic Book Discussion Group: *Beautiful Mercy*
June 23, 2016: Chapters 4 and 5, Pages 51 – 65

DISCUSSION OUTLINE

1. Chapters 4 and 5, discuss/describe two Corporal Works of Mercy: Clothing the Naked and Visiting the Sick. In a very general way, what is your understanding of these two Corporal Works of Mercy? What NEW insights did you gain from reading these chapters?

2. Retell the following stories:
 - a. The story of Mike (page 54)
 - b. The story of Lisa (page 55)
 - c. The story of Mr. and Mrs. Reyna (page 56)How are these words – “share”, “knit” and “sacrifice” connected to these stories? Do the words and stories motivate you in any way “to do it. To really and truly clothe the naked.”? (page 53)

3. How are the “knitting ladies” of Chapter 4 and the “water ladies” of Chapter 3 (“I am Neema” – page 48) related? Are they alike in any way? What do they look like? Are you in any way like them? Could you say: “I am Neema.” Or “I am a knitting lady?” How? Why?

4. Father Peter recently saw a bumper sticker that said “Simplify”. Does the message of the sticker have anything to teach us about how we can “clothe the naked”?

5. Father Calloway begins his reflection on visiting the sick by writing: "There is no substitute for human interaction...Nothing says "you matter", "you have dignity", "you are loved" quite like a personal encounter." Why is this message so important to someone who is sick? How do you bring this "message" to someone you know and love who is sick?

6. Mercy is "making someone else's pain our own. Mercy is love in action." (page 64) Visiting the sick may take some of us out of our comfort zone. (page 65) It can be physically and emotionally draining. You too will receive a gift beyond measure.
 - a. How comfortable are you with visiting the sick?
 - b. Did you ever realize that the sick person gives you and teaches you more than you do for her/him?

7. "Each of us has special gifts" we can bring to the sick. Those are Father Calloway's words on page 64. He goes on to mention two gifts we can all bring to the sick: Pray and Presence. What are your gifts? How do you share them with the sick? What gifts would you like to be able to bring to someone who is sick?

8. Is there a "nakedness" greater than the lack of clothes? Is there a "sickness" greater than the lack of good health? From your reading and from our discussion, how will you respond to the invitation of Jesus to clothe the naked, to visit the sick?

9. Any other thoughts, ideas, questions, observations, insights you wish to share...