



### *Mercy Sunday: Telling the Story of God's Mercy and Love*

It has been said that human beings are the story of God – the story of God among us. The story becomes real in the life of Jesus – as the “sacrament” of God’s Love. As we experience the unconditional love of God, we also experience the power and possibilities for the future that God intends for us. St. Ignatius of Antioch said, *“The Glory of God is the human person fully alive.”* In God’s vision, mutual respect and love, justice and compassion, and reconciliation become tangible signs that humanity is fully alive.

Jesus is true to God’s project in the world - and in the resurrection of Jesus - the promise of the future lives, forgiveness lives, mercy lives, and self-giving love lives. And so the Resurrection is a rather dramatic statement as to the reliability of God’s promise and the ultimate meaning and destiny of human life.

When we gather to celebrate the Eucharist – the Mass - the community remembers and proclaims the Word of God concerning the possibilities for the future. As Servants of Christ we give our lives as symbols of human love and dignity, in contrast to what should not be in our world. In the Celebration of the Eucharist we affirm our solidarity with all of God’s Beloved, and we also are reminded that we need to recognize and do something concrete about the contrast that exists in our community and the world - people and creation touched by violence, injustice, tragedy – a wounded humanity and a wounded creation.

At Mass we continue to tell the story of human love and we are sent at the end of Mass extending the mercy of God to our “neighbor.” This week is Mercy Sunday – a reminder that we need to keep telling the story of God’s future - with and for us. As theologian Edward Schillebeeckx reminds us – “we are the guardians of creation and humanity, but we can so easily become the betrayers.” L Gaetano