

Nine Week Novena For Mercy

Week Eight The Greatest Act of Mercy

**Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.
Martin Luther King, Jr.**

We have been Baptized to be imitators of Christ. We are called to love as the Spirit loves, to forgive as the Father forgives and to live as Jesus has taught us to live.

Forgiveness is the willful desire for total surrender of all thoughts of resentment, feelings of anger and grudges against another person or group.

“Amen I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” Matthew 17:20

What does it take to move a mountain? The sheer power and determination to do so would be mind-blowing; as is the power of forgiveness. Forgiveness begins as a mustard seed and grows into something mighty and grand, so grand and mighty that it has the power to remove obstacles, infliction, resentment, grudges, and even hate. Forgiveness does not happen overnight, it is a process of the heart relinquishing control and allowing God to soften and heal our hearts. Forgiveness is an act of love that is selfless and compels us to be compassionate. Mercy never takes away, it only gives. When we are merciful, we too are receiving graces from that mercy. Forgiveness is the greatest act of mercy, for it requires total surrender and trust in God.

The power of forgiveness is huge; it is really big, and it can save this world.
Immaculee Ilibagiza

“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.” Luke 24:34

*Jesus,
many times I have tried to forgive, but am unable to move beyond feelings of betrayal,
injustice, indifference and anger. How can I learn to love those who have mistreated,
ignored, abused, and used me? How is it possible to love those who care only about
themselves? How do I show mercy to those who are cruel and merciless?
You forgive all sins and all crimes against Your hearts. Equip my heart to be able to love
without restraint, without prejudice and without hesitation. I desire to become an authentic
witness of the power of mercy. Lead me to those whom I have failed to forgive. Strengthen
my heart to forgive every offense completely.*

AMEN