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22nd SUNDAY O/T – August 30, 2020 -PUTTING GOD FIRST

"Fraulein, will you forgive me?" Corrie ten Boom often thought back over the horrors of the Ravensbruck concentration camp. How could she ever forgive the former Nazis who had been her jailers? Where was love, acceptance, and forgiveness in a horror camp where more than 95,000 women died? How could she ever forget the horrible cruelty of the guards and the smoke constantly coming from the chimney of the crematorium? Then in 1947 Corrie was speaking in a Church in Munich, and when the meeting was over, she saw one of the cruellest male guards of Ravensbruck coming forward to speak to her. He had his hand outstretched. "I have become a Christian," he explained. "I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well. Fraulein, will you forgive me?" A conflict raged in Corrie's heart. The Spirit of God urged her to forgive. The spirit of bitterness and coldness urged her to turn away. "Jesus, help me," she prayed. Then she knew what she must do. "I can lift my hand," she thought to herself. "I can do that much." As their hands met it was as if warmth and healing broke forth with tears and joy. "I forgive you, brother, with all my heart," she said. Later Corrie testified, "it was the power of the Holy Spirit" Who had poured the love of God into her heart that day. (Garrie F. Williams, "Welcome, Holy Spirit." Copyright (c) 1994) — I don't know any other way true forgiveness can take place. We turn our hurt over to God. We ask God for the ability to forgive.

2. "Forgiving parents: Both my Parents were prisoners during the 2nd world war. They were taken from their homes in Poland to Germany. Never seeing their family again. My father spent time in an underground chemical factory, about 3 years; then about 18 months in Birkenau. After that he was sent to Auschwitz. My mother was taken prisoner from her home and worked on a farm in Germany. My parents met in a Refugee camp, married and soon after I was born in that camp. When the war came to an end 'under the Geneva agreement' all prisoners of war had to return to their own Country or go to the other side of the world and make their homes in a new country. My parents, like many refugees believed that they had no home to return to and that most probably their family didn't survive the war. My parents decided to leave Germany and chose Australia as their new home. As it happened I married a German. Some of my parent's friends couldn't understand how they permitted me to marry a German. They always responded that my husband was a young boy at that time and wasn't responsible for the war. Years later I had to record my parent's time in the German prison camps. It was only then that I learnt about the hardships beatings and hunger they endured. However the most profound event that had the biggest effect on my life was when my father told us that when the Americans came and liberated the prisoners, they were given an amnesty of 3 days to kill any German they wanted. I was taken aback by this and I asked my father if he killed anyone? His response was:
"Why should I take a life for a life!"

Joke: A Priest preached a wonderful sermon, saying we should love our enemies. And, when he got through, he asked, "Is there anybody in the audience who can truthfully say that he or she has no enemies?" An old gentleman got up right underneath the pulpit, and he said, "Father, I ain't got no enemies." So, the Pastor tells the congregation, "Let's listen. This man has the secret. He can teach us something. Go ahead, sir, now tell us how we do that." "Oh," he said, "it ain't hard. You see, I've outlived all those rascals."

Recently Deceased: Angelo Vocale, *We especially pray for all the deceased whose names are on the Church pews & the Resurrection Chapel. We pray for all those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:*

Prayers in time of a pandemic - The Catholic Weekly

The early Christians prayed in the church of the home. Once more, in troubled times when public worship has to be restricted, we are called to pray in "the domestic church", always aware of the promise of Jesus, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them." (Matthew 18:20).

In this challenging time: Lord Jesus Christ, our true physician and healer, be merciful to us and bring us your aid in these troubled times.

Heal all our sickness and every affliction of your people.

Drive out our infirmities of soul and body; free us from all disease and especially from this pestilence. We place in your gentle Heart the elderly, the frail, people with disability, children, young people and families, our indigenous peoples, those who are poor, lonely and isolated. As you walk with us, free them from fear, and give them patience and hope together with our loving care. In your mercy deal also with the causes of our pitiful condition, that in curing our lack of faith and spiritual weakness, you may also remedy our bodily ills. We place our trust in you, the risen Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

For those who care for the sick

Father of mercies, we thank you for all who care for the sick.

When they diagnose, give them patience.

When they protect the vulnerable, give them your protection.

When they work to heal, give them strength.

When they comfort, give them consolation.

When they are tired, give them rest.

When they are discouraged, bring them your hope.

May we welcome and respect them as we support one another in this time of trial.

For those seeking a cure for the virus

Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten the minds of women and men of medical science who are working to find a solution to this viral infection. Guide their research and help them discover what you provide in creation, sure ways of control, protection, inoculation and healing. Strengthen them in their tiring work and enrich in them the virtue of hope. Amen.

For those who govern and represent us

Eternal Wisdom, guide our leaders called to serve us in our Nation. May they respond to the challenges of this affliction with prudence and sound judgement. With foresight, may their planning alleviate the economic burdens, compensate for losses, protect employment and ensure ample food for the poor and isolated. **Amen.**

For humility Merciful Lord, we stand before you in our human weakness.

We confess that we have been caught up in the pride and presumption that drives our worldly society. Free us from the arrogance that afflicts our age, for now we stand confounded by conditions beyond our control or understanding.

Give us humble and honest hearts to discern the greater mystery of your providence in creation. May we accept your justice and trust your redeeming mercy. **Amen**