

Blessed are they (blessed are you) who are persecuted: we take up our crosses and follow Jesus, committing ourselves to everything He has taught us, even enduring persecution for His sake, but doing so joyfully because we know He has promised us eternal life in our Father's Kingdom.

With Christ living in us we become conformed to His image of peace and love. In the image of Christ we become divine children of His Father

"The only ladder to heaven is the Cross"
-- St. Rose of Lima

Blessed are the peacemakers

Our old hearts are replaced with the pure heart of Jesus our Redeemer. We will see God's face in the faces of everyone with whom we share His love.

Blessed are the pure in heart

When we show our mercy and forgiveness we will be given mercy and forgiveness through Jesus' perfect Sacrifice on the Cross

Blessed are the merciful

Seek the King of Righteousness to be filled by Christ in the Eucharist

← **Turning Point**

Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness

Yield our will to God's will for our lives = renewal → inherit "the Land"; the Church = dominion to bind and loose

Blessed are the meek

Mourn own sins and world sin = purification → comfort & strength, Reconciliation

Blessed are those who mourn

Those who acknowledge their need for God → Kingdom of Heaven = eternal life promised through Baptism and faithfully living the Law of love on a life time journey of faith

Blessed are the poor in spirit

The Progression of the Beatitudes

Beatitudes contain 7 or 8 (depending on how you count them) successive fundamental spiritual states that every Christian must strive to achieve. The Beatitudes must be lived fully and completely just as the 10 Commandments have to be lived in their entirety.

Handout #2, Lesson 7:

Questions for group discussion:

Question: What are the corporal works of mercy outlined in the New Testament and in the Catechism?

Question: How do you fulfill these works of compassion? See Matthew 6:2-4; 25:31-46; James 2:15-16; 1 John 3:17; and the CCC #2447.

Question: As defined by the Church, charity is love in action in the application of showing God's love to others in need. Mercy is one of the "fruits of charity." What are the other "fruits" of charity? See CCC# 1829.

Question: What special "freedom" does the Church teach that a life animated by charity gives the Christian? See CCC# 1828.

Question: Why is one of the Virgin Mary's titles "the Mother of Mercy?" What special prayer do we address to her in her role as the Mother of Mercy? Hint: it is probably the first prayer you ever learned and the last one you will pray at the end of your life. See CCC# 2677.

Question: Are works of mercy necessary for our salvation? See CCC# 1473; 2447.