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Theological Synthesis: *His Mercy Endures Forever*
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OUTLINE

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 - A. Christ's Public Life and Ministry
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The text of the Introduction and Conclusion follows.

INTRODUCTION

I am a sinful man! Wicked, evil, and immoral, yet the Lord has looked upon me with Love and Mercy. He has showered me with gifts of plenty and success. He sustains me with blessings and judges me not according to my faults but by His goodness. I have offended Him, insulted Him, and caused Him so much pain; but in spite of all this, He has never responded with hatred or disgust. He remains gentle and loving, tender and kind. He is God, so rich and full of mercy. His mercy goes far beyond all human categories and standards. His mercy is greater than justice. “His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation” (Lk 1:50).

Given these, I thought of writing a synthesis centering on God’s infinite mercy. I believe that every individual, no matter how righteous or virtuous he may think himself to be, still needs the mercy of God. Man apart from God is nothing and can do nothing. But man gifted with the underserved grace of forgiveness is justified.

In treating this simple study, I wish to present the idea of God’s mercy in three main chapters, namely: *God, the Father of Mercy*; *Jesus Christ, the Incarnation of God’s Mercy*; and *Holy Spirit, the Gift of Mercy*.

In the first chapter, I will present how God revealed His mercy through His wonderful work of creation. This will then be followed by man’s appearance in the scene, his fall, and consequently his need for forgiveness. I will then discuss heaven, which is basically the very reason why man needs to be forgiven and the end goal of God’s mercy.

In the second chapter, I will present Jesus Christ, the visible and perfect expression of God and His mercy. I will present His ministry and Paschal Mystery, which is basically a reflection of what is happening in the inner life of the Trinity. Then, to close the chapter, and also to segue smoothly to the final one, I will present the inner life of the Merciful God — the central mystery of our faith that Christ revealed to us.

Finally, in the third chapter, I will present how the Holy Spirit continues and sustains the mercy of God to be experienced by the people. I will also present the Church’s role in proclaiming this mercy through its liturgy and sacraments. I will then cap off the study by presenting Mary, the most perfect model of one who has received and enjoyed God’s infinite mercy.

CONCLUSION

God's mercy endures forever. He is the very author, origin, and model of Mercy. He has faithfully and continuously shown this, though we, His wicked creatures, are undeserving of such a gift. He put order and life to the once chaotic universe. He fashioned man in His sacred image and even related with Him not so much as a Master or a Creator but as a Father who is totally in love with His children. He sustains His people and generously provides them with plenty. He willed that all may return to His loving embrace and, with such desire, enables them to reach their final end. Man however fell into the cycle of sin, displeasing God and causing Him so much pain. Yet God in His Love and enduring Mercy did not give up on his creatures. He instead filled men and women with grace, lifted them up from the miry clay, and even made a covenant with them. He did not abandon His chosen people. He remained ever faithful despite man's continuous wickedness and unfaithfulness.

Then, in the fullness of time, God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to let the people feel and concretely experience His mercy. Jesus revealed the infinite mercy of God definitively through His words and deeds. He also revealed God's salvific plan for humanity which is to restore man's communion with God. Together with the revelation of God's nature and His plan is the manifestation of the self-emptying love of God toward His creatures — a love that knows no limit; a love that is total and free.

Though God's love and mercy was concretely and definitively shown by His Son, God — again in His goodness and mercy — willed that this may be perpetuated and made known to all generations. The Crucified Christ thus breathed the Holy Spirit, the Gift of Mercy, and instituted the Church. This Church now continues the very mission of Christ always with the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In her liturgy, sacraments, and mission, the Church makes present God's enduring mercy, and continuously draws out people to share and partake of the Divine Life of the Trinity. She makes the merciful and gentle acts of Jesus forever alive in the hearts of every Christian, and through her liturgy, man is given the avenue to respond with faith and thanksgiving.

Finally, God, in fulfilling His promise of mercy, deemed it wise to offer Mary, the Mother of Mercy, to be our Model in following the will of God. In her, we see the singular and exceptional experience of Divine Mercy. Through her prayers and intercession, we, her children, are properly led and guided to her Son Jesus. Having all these, we therefore conclude that, indeed, God's mercy endures forever! He is rich and full of mercy in eternity. And He is rich and full of mercy in all the events of human history.