

**PRAYING WITH OUR SPC ROLE  
MODELS**  
*Celebrating 325 Years of Life and  
Mission*



**MARCH 2021**

**Theme:** MERCIFUL COMPASSION

**Grace:** Lord Jesus, I beg for the grace of a merciful and compassionate heart so that I can feel and be with all those who are suffering, within and outside of my community.

**Scripture Text:** “But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.” *Eph 2:4-5*

**POINTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION:**

**A. Merciful Compassion in the life of St. Paul**

Saint Paul gives us the most comprehensive doctrine of Divine Mercy. For him, Divine Mercy, is a primary quality and characteristic of God inseparable from his divine love and grace. It is God’s free gift, gentle action, and response to the disobedient and sinner. Mercy is also God’s interior disposition of compassion, tenderness, and loving kindness towards those in distress. Saint Paul then bases the moral imperatives that he teaches on this Gospel of Mercy - as God through Christ has been merciful to us, so we also ought to be merciful to one another. (*cf Eph 4: 31-32; Col 3:12*)

**B. Merciful Compassion in the life of our Sisters**

**SISTER URSULE JOSEPH FOURGEROUSE (1858 – 1948)**

*Province of Thailand*

**Sr. Ursule Joseph** dedicated 36 years of her life in Nong Saeng, Laos (Thailand), a rural area in the middle of a forest, far from any civilization. Her life was a living testament of the love and mercy of God among the orphans, the children, the sick, and the faithful of Nong Saeng. She did “all these little services with great love for the Lord, that the Kingdom of God would come.”

**SISTER JEANNE DE LA MISÉRICORDE MARIE-CATHERINE (1923 – 2016)**

*Province of Antilles-Guyane*

**Sister Jeanne** worked in the Chinese Village in the Diocese of Cayenne, which was known at that time as a disreputable neighborhood, called "The Cove." With patience, courage, love, and the grace of God, she founded the AMAPO (Association of Martin de Porres) in 1982. An article entitled: “Overcoming School Failure” published in the daily newspaper of Antilles-Guyane on April 6, 1991, described Sr. Jeanne and the AMAPO in

the following words: *“AMAPO offers the lost sheep what they need most: **Love...** A big family: more than a roof for those who are thirsty for culture, more than a refuge for the hungry of society, this is Sister Jeanne’s heart opening when she opens the doors of AMAPO.”*

**C. Merciful Compassion in our life**

1. I recall the times in my life when I have concretely experienced God’s merciful compassion. I also recall the times when I have concretely shown merciful compassion towards others especially those who are in need. I relish these experiences in prayer.
2. *“As God through Christ has been merciful to us, so we also ought to be merciful to one another.”* I ask for the Spirit’s guidance as I think of concrete ways I and my community can extend love and mercy to one another, the people we meet in the ministry, and all those who are in need.
3. I dialogue with the Lord on the points above.
4. I share in my community my reflections on #2.