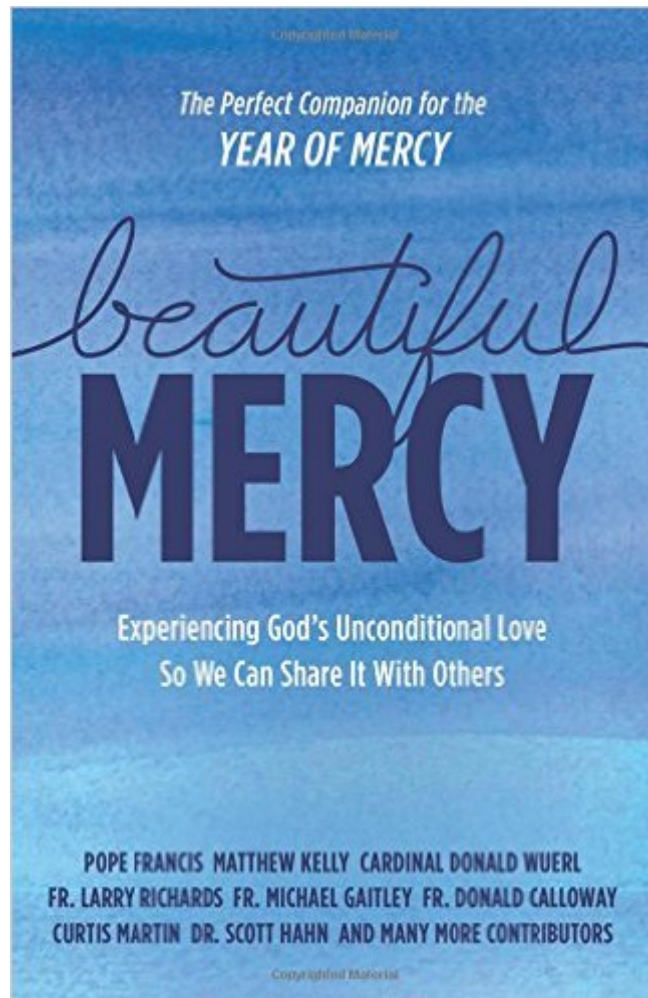


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# Beautiful Mercy



## Synopsis

Giving and receiving mercy is central to living a life of passion and purpose. Yet, for some reason, most people believe they are either too young or too old, not religious enough, or simply don't have enough time to live a life uncommon. The perfect companion for the Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis, the book provides an encounter with the heart of God. By focusing on the 7 Spiritual and 7 Corporal works of mercy, it inspires readers to realize that extraordinary acts of love are possible for anyone no matter where they are in life. Once again bringing to light the genius of Catholicism, bestselling author Matthew Kelly has enlisted the help of 24 incredible authors who witness to the power of God's mercy, provide simple practical tips on how to be an instrument of that mercy and bring hope to anyone searching for deeper meaning in their life. This book will touch the core of who you are. In the end, we all need God's mercy. So, no matter where you are, not matter what you have been through, there is not a better time than right now to rediscover the incredible power of God's mercy. Beautiful Mercy is an invitation to rediscover God's unconditional love so that we can share it with others. Beautiful Mercy includes contributions from: Pope Francis, Matthew Kelly, Dr. Scott Hahn, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Cardinal Sean Patrick O Malley, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Christopher West, Dr. Carolyn Woo, Dr. Allen Hunt, Curtis Martin, Dan Burke, Jennifer Fulwiler, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Sarah Swafford, Lisa Brenninkmeyer, Fr. James Mallon, Msgr. Charles Pope, Sr. Helena Burns, Fr. Michael Gaitley, Fr. Don Calloway, Mother Olga Yaqob, Sr. Marie Veritas, Matt Fradd, Jackie Francois-Angel, Sr. Mary Madeline, Lisa Hendey, Kerry Webber, John Michael Talbot

## Book Information

Hardcover

Publisher: Beacon Publishing (October 15, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1942611501

ISBN-13: 978-1942611509

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (36 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #71,256 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Catholicism > Theology](#) #29 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Catholicism > Roman Catholicism](#) #1048 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations &](#)

## Customer Reviews

DynamicCatholic.com does it again - provides a resource for those looking but maybe not 100% sure what they are looking for. Two categories of works that focus on showing and sharing mercy are called - the Spiritual and the Corporal Works of Mercy. Beautiful Mercy brings these works to life with short engaging stories from incredible authors such as - Lisa Hendey; Jennifer Fulwiler; Sr. Helena Burns, and more. Toted as the "perfect companion for the Year of Mercy" - I would definitely have to agree with this statement. As we travel through the special year announced by Pope Francis as the Jubilee Year of Mercy, it is good to have concrete ways to bring that Mercy we share in the love of God to others. Mercy received by not shared is wasted. Mercy offered but never experienced is even sadder - and makes sharing it with others impossible. Beautiful Mercy opens our eyes to mercy at work in the every day world around us, and provides insights into how we can embrace what either others are doing or what we may feel called to do. In part one, The Corporal Works of Mercy - Beautiful Mercy takes a poignant look at homelessness, hunger, both physical and spiritual thirst, clothing the naked not just on our streets but what about the bald heads of those undergoing chemotherapy? In part two, the Spiritual Works of Mercy - Beautiful Mercy draws our thoughts to counseling the doubtful, instructing those who are unaware or hold misconceptions of a life with Christ, how important and necessary our prayers are for the living and the dead, and much more. The short stories make it a perfect companion for the busy reader during this Year of Mercy, and especially the upcoming season of Lent. Make this your next book choice for your small groups, or visit [dynamiccatholic.com](http://dynamiccatholic.com) and see how you can purchase these at a discount for your entire parish!! Mercy is such a gift - let us not waste another day leaving it unreceived, unopened, and/or unused!

I picked up this book to refresh and encourage me on MERCY. I wanted to more deeply engage in the concept of the Pope's focus of Mercy during this Jubilee year. I found the stories often made me cry, and the question from the start of the opening of the book - "When is the last time someone mistook me for Jesus" - continues to reverberate in my ears almost daily. This is an AWESOME way to walk through the corporal and spiritual works for mercy - which is really just a way of saying how do we LIVE MERCY in our daily lives. It did what I hoped for - it encouraged and refreshed me - but did more than that...It inspired me to renew my commitment to LIVING MERCY in my daily life.

Although this was not what I expected (a book written by the Pope himself) and because it is a collection of essays on various aspects of mercy as the Church understands it which means that some essays spoke more powerfully to me than others, this book is well worth reading for the gems it does contain that make you think about the many forms mercy can take as well as some startling examples of mercy in action from biblical times forward.

You'll enjoy this compendium of short yet thoughtful chapters by a wide variety of Catholic writers. Mercy, grace, forgiveness, and spiritual beauty are among the topics. A pleasant and edifying read.

This was an amazing read. If you are unfamiliar with the works of mercy or cannot recall them off the top of your head Matthew Kelly reminds us that: "The works of mercy are broken up into two categories: the corporal works of mercy and the spiritual works of mercy. The corporal works of mercy are concerned with meeting the physical needs of others. They are: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead. The spiritual works of mercy, on the other hand, are designed to meet the spiritual needs of others. They are: instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, correct sinners, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the afflicted, pray for the living and the dead." After Matthew reminds us of what the works of Mercy are he states: "For this book, we've enlisted the help of some incredible authors in the Church. These authors have taken the fourteen works of spiritual and corporal mercy and provided simple, practical ways for you to understand them better and to incorporate them into your everyday life. I hope you pray through this book and invite the mercy of God to transform your life, because in the end it's all about God's mercy." It truly is an incredible collection. A few of the authors I had encountered prior to reading this volume, a few I had never heard of. I have already picked up books by three of the contributors to add to my 'to be read pile'. The contributors in order of appearance are: Matthew Kelly, Pope Francis, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Fr. Larry Richards, Fr. Michael Gaitley, Mic, Christopher West, Lisa M. Hendey, Dr. Allen R. Hunt, Fr. Donald Calloway, Mick, Kerry Weber, Mother Olga Yaqob, Sr. Marie Veritas, Sv, Dr. Carolyn Woo, Lisa Brenninkmeyer, Curtis Martin, Sarah Swafford, Sr. Mary Madeline Todd, Op, Std, Jackie Francois-Angel, Sr. Helena Burns, Fsp, Jennifer Fulwiler, Daniel Burke, Matt Fradd, Fr. James Mallon, Fr. Mike Schmitz, John Michael Talbot, Msgr. Charles Pope, Dr. Scott Hahn. The introduction by Pope Francis says: "Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy:

to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead." Pope Francis goes on to outline line that we will be known and judged by our actions And living the works of mercy is needed in our world and in our lives. Father Larry Richards declares: "We must feed the hungry or be damned! Did I get your attention? I hope so!" what a way to grab our attention at the beginning of his piece on Feeding the Hungry. And later Christopher West writing about giving drink to the thirsty quoting Pope Francis: "I see clearly," said Pope Francis, "that the thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds." And this means that "ministers of the Church must be ministers of mercy above all." Ministers of mercy are those willing to enter into the pain and misery of people's lives, touch their wounds, and surprise them with tender, healing love." What would our families, our communities look like if we strived to live this better each day? Also writing about giving drink to the thirsty Lisa M. Hendley says: "Sometimes the "drink" we carry to those who thirst will be literal. Often, it will be figurative. Regardless, let us pray daily for gratitude for those who have quenched our thirst and for the grace to carry the drink of living water to those most in need." How often do we acknowledge those who have filled our cup? Do we as generously then fill others? Later Dr. Allen R. Hunt writing on clothe the naked reminds us that: "In the corporal works of mercy, Jesus calls us to do something-not simply to talk about it, not to study it, not to establish a committee to develop a plan for it, but to do it. To really and truly clothe the naked." There was a time many years ago when I was out of work and in a new town, I noticed the worship leader wore a different winter coat every week and I was without one. I asked him if I could borrow one until I could get one. The next week he showed up with a hockey duffle bag full of clothes for me all from his closet. This man literally clothed me and I never forgot it. Curtis Martin writing about comforting the afflicted says: "For nonbelievers, there is enough evidence to conclude that the world is an essentially brutal place, where the innocent and weak not only suffer, but suffer at the hands of the strong. They believe that Darwin was right and only the strongest and the fittest will survive. Jesus came to reveal a radically different perspective, a deeper truth, a more powerful truth: that suffering, while real, is not the final word." And we as the body of Christ as that witness in the world. Can our neighbours and friends tell a difference between us and how we live and the non-believers they know. For many years now one of my often spoken prayers is that 'my actions would live up to my theology' that sentiment is echoed in the quote at the beginning of the section on Instruct the Ignorant: "For nonbelievers, there is enough evidence to conclude that the world is an essentially brutal place, where the innocent and

weak not only suffer, but suffer at the hands of the strong. They believe that Darwin was right and only the strongest and the fittest will survive. Jesus came to reveal a radically different perspective, a deeper truth, a more powerful truth: that suffering, while real, is not the final word." This reminded me to ask what is my life witnessing to. The greatest strength of this book is the stories, from the introduction by Matthew Kelly with the stories of Adam, David, Mary Anne to the stories in each separate piece either the authors own witness or the stories they have observed. I really do not believe you could read this book and not be moved and challenged in your own life. For me it was strange but as I was reading the section that hit me most was Bury the Dead, my oldest is in training to become an altar server, in communicating with the lady who coordinates it for our parish I mentioned that I had served from a child well into university. She asked if I would be willing and able to altar server at the occasional funeral mass when they need assistance. I said yes, how could I not. It is a small sacrifice on my part to help live this out. Please give this book a read, it will dramatically impact your life, and through your life those who know you and the ripples will keep spreading out. This is an amazing book and I highly recommend it.

Easily understood, timely and relevant information. A must read for this year of mercy. Thank you Matthew Kelly and all.

An amazing book. It made me think about how I live my life and how God wants me to live. I had to examine where those two things were not aligned and use the tools in this book to get back on that path. I will be re-reading this book over and over.

Mercy is a wonderful thing! We can all use more in our life. Read this book in two days. Loved it! Great collaboration of writers. Pass it along after you read the book to someone who will get the message.

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