

# YEAR OF MERCY STAFF REFLECTION 1

## “YOU MAY NEVER KNOW”

### GATHERING PRAYER:

God of compassion and mercy,  
Be with us as we gather today to give witness to your  
Ever present love and forgiveness.  
Help us to walk in your light,  
Confident that by our example,  
Others will follow in your ways.

### REFLECTION:

At the beginning of the Second World War, a large number of bombs dropped by the Germans on France did not explode. French bomb experts diffusing them were curious about what caused the malfunction. They discovered small handwritten notes tucked inside the bombs. French prisoners of war doing forced labour in German munitions factories had written on tiny pieces of paper, “We’re doing the best we can from where we are with what we’ve got, every chance we get.” That simple message could be the motto of anyone seeking to make this world a better and more just place. We can mistakenly believe that to leave the world a better place than when we were born it is necessary to do something grand or perform some great service. To make the world a better place, simply do the best you can just where you are – your neighbourhood, your workplace – with the talents and resources you have, as insignificant as they may seem. Do it every chance you get! As Mahatma Ghandi said, “You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.”

*Edward Hays (2009) A Book of Wonders*

Spend a few minutes reflecting on the people who have made a difference in your life, but they may not know it. In your mind, what would you say to them.

### COMMUNITY PRAYER:

An opportunity to offer shared prayers/intercessions for the needs of our community ...

### CONCLUDING PRAYER:

All loving God,  
By the example of Jesus, we are inspired to live our lives  
With mercy and compassion.  
May we be people who make a difference  
In the lives of many,  
Even though we may never know.  
Amen.

### LITANY

Mary our Good Mother, Mother of Mercy ... pray for us.  
St Marcellin Champagnat ... pray for us.  
St Mary of the Cross ... pray for us.  
And let us always remember ... to pray for one another.



**THIS IS THE NAME OF OUR GOD**

-POPE FRANCIS