

New Vision Article
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The Closer We Get To God

Jordan Ministry Team is fortunate during this Jubilee Year to be leading several retreats and parish missions on mercy. At a recent retreat, one participant was especially quiet through most of the day. Whether he was disinterested, distracted, upset, or simply reserved, it was impossible to tell. But then, during the last sharing of the day, he expressed one thought which, for me, was the highlight of the entire retreat. He said, “The closer we get to God, the more we realize how much we need Him.”

To be in right relationship with God first requires knowing that we are not God—or gods—ourselves. We are the created, not the Creator. We are not the source of love but, as the beloved of God, we are called to be instruments of that love and mercy in the world. We desire and need God as the source of life. We are empty and incomplete until we allow God, not our own power or possessions, to be our wholeness.

In this month of March, many of our sisters and brothers are in the final stages of discernment and preparation for Christian initiation at Easter. We journey together toward celebrating the depth of God’s love revealed in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Just as the Easter sacraments do not constitute an end to the initiation process, but the beginning of a deeper experience of God in the Church, so too our annual observance of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter calls us to grow ever stronger in our faith. We move closer to God, only to discover how much we have always needed God’s mercy in our lives. This, in turn, leads us to be people of greater mercy in the lives of others.