The Priest – An Instrument of the Divine Mercy

For the Year of Mercy, the suggested theme: “The priest – An Instrument of Divine Mercy”, needs to be understood from both consecrated and Christian life point of view, since we are all part of the priesthood of Christ, both the sacramental or ministerial priesthood and the...
common priesthood or the priesthood of the faithful. When proclaiming the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis explained how it is possible for any of us to receive and offer mercy. Therefore, I shall try to present some aspects of mercy that the clergy must be aware of, must live and put into practice. Thus, the priest is first called to make known the Word of God, and only when the Word of God becomes a spiritual food for him he may begin the new evangelization of those who knew Him or of those who have forgotten what it means to be a Christian. Secondly, one needs to consider the practicality of the teachings of the Word of God, the priest must find ways to put into practice the material and spiritual acts of mercy, and thus the Gospel becomes “operative through charity”. Last but not least, one needs to seek the Mercy of God in the sacrament of Reconciliation, where the priest finds himself to be the first penitent who received the Divine love, forgiveness and mercy, and then in turn he can provide the forgiveness of God to others, becoming a “channel” for the descent of the Mercy of God. These three ways are found in the documents of the Catholic Church, i.e. Misericordiae vultus, Dives in misericordia and Misericordia Dei, inviting us to receive and live out the Divine mercy at the true value of the love and forgiveness of the Heavenly Father.
No, the Mercy that a priest is to offer the Church and world is much greater. The foundational act of Mercy that you can offer is to freely choose to be Christ's pierced and wounded Heart. It is only from His Heart that the blood and water of the sacramental life of the Church is poured forth. This role, of being an instrument of The Divine Mercy, is more than the charism to preach and to celebrate the Sacraments, you must become the sacrifice with Christ, offering your life for the salvation of the world. Embrace your sacrificial role as a way of perpetuating the outpouring of The Divine Mercy of God, shining forth from the wounded Heart of our Lord. Sanctify the Church Through Your Ministry. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy as a Novena. The Chaplet can be said anytime, but the Lord specifically asked that it be recited as a novena. He promised, “By this Novena (of Chaplets), I will grant every possible grace to souls.” For each of the nine days, our Lord gave Saint Faustina a different intention: all mankind, especially sinners; the souls of priests and religious; all devout and faithful souls; those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know Jesus; the souls who have separated themselves from the Church; the meek and humble souls and the souls of little.