

**National Gathering of the Missionaries of Mercy USA -
St Meinrad Archabbey - Archdiocese of Indianapolis
August 30- September 2, 2021
By Father John Fischer**

“A Merciful Heart Open to the Whole World”

Through the active participation of the Outreach Priests, commissioned by Pope Francis as Missionaries of Mercy, at the two National Gatherings (Jan 21 - 23, 2020 - Diocese of Lexington and Aug 30 - Sept 2, 2021 - Archdiocese of Indianapolis) the ministry of Cross Catholic Outreach to the Poorest of the Poor is better known.

The value of the gatherings was the camaraderie and fraternity that was shared through prayer, Adoration and the Sacred Liturgy - the call to place our faith into action

Keynote: “How Faith can create a merciful heart - wisdom, ways and works of sacramental catechesis.” Bishop Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst,

Then we were called to action through the example and Call to Mercy by Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ to live the Corporal Works of Mercy = the assembly of the Mercy Bags.

We were reminded of the great gift of Mercy Pope Francis has given to the Missionaries of Mercy - Be Merciful as your Heavenly Father is Merciful: Fr. Anthony McLaughlin, JCD reminded us that the faculty of Mercy granted by Pope Francis is not only absolution (Which all priests can extend in the danger of death) but also the lifting of the penalty attached to the canonical crime, without recourse to the Apostolic Penitentiary.

For me the gathering was a call to a wider vision of the Sacrament of Mercy and to living the Mercy that God constantly extends to me, a sinner.

Fr. John Fischer

“Two people look at a piece of bread or a cup of wine and see bread or wine only-the quotidian, the physical thing itself, while another looks at the same two things and is shaken to the very core by the God-saturated reality brimming in the deepest self. And these ways of seeing come to make all the difference in one’s life, one’s thoughts, even in the way one comes to taste words. (Gerard Manley Hopkins)