

## February 2016

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It would not be out of place at this point to recall the relationship between justice and mercy. These are not two contradictory realities, but two dimensions of a single reality that unfolds progressively until it culminates in the fullness of love. Justice is also understood as that which is rightly due to each individual. (MV 20)

Mercy is not opposed to justice but rather expresses God's way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe. God's anger lasts but a moment, his mercy forever. (MV 21)

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*I want your constant love, not your animal sacrifices. I would rather have my people know me than burn offerings to me.*

*Hosea 6: 6*

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Mercy complements God's justice, it does not undermine it. Instead of insisting on the demands of justice, God reaches out to sinners and gives them opportunities to repent.

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