

## Lenten Reflection

Friday, February 19, 2016

*By Sister Agnes Raible, CDP*



God, apparently, has a very short and selective memory according to today's first reading: "None of the crimes one commits shall be remembered against him/her if he/she turns from evil to good." It seems to me that God is more merciful toward the sinner than to the virtuous person who tires and lets go of the struggle.

How can we understand this Mystery of God's unconditional unearned love? We cannot. God's ways are not our ways. In human terms, this absolute mercy is part of God's DNA!

We hear in Psalm 130 and Pope Francis reiterates, "God always waits for us, even when we have left God behind! God is never far from us and if we return to God, there is always the merciful embrace awaiting us."

Again Pope Francis exclaims: "How beautiful is this gaze of Jesus - how much tenderness is there! Let us never lose trust in the patience and mercy of God."

I hold precious Nan C. Merrill's interpretation of Psalm 130:

*"O sons and daughters of the Light,  
Welcome the Heart of your heart!  
Then you will climb the Sacred  
Mountain of Truth;  
You will know mercy and love  
in abundance.  
Then will your transgressions be  
forgiven and redeemed."*

However, Jesus cautions in MT 5:20-26: Don't come to the altar of God if you are not already reconciled with someone – go first and forgive the person/s so you can receive mercy and have your sins forgiven. Then you will discover: "God is mercy within mercy, within mercy." - Thomas Merton

Help us, Provident God not to grow weary of the climb to the Sacred Mountain.