December 18, 2015 – Mercy Friday

No man has ever seen God or known him, but God has revealed himself to us through faith, by which alone it is possible to see Him. God the Lord and maker of all things, who created the world and set it in order, not only loved man but was also patient with him. So He has always been, and is, and will be: kind, good, free from anger, truthful; indeed, He and He alone is good.

…When God had made all his plans in consultation with his Son, He waited until a later time, allowing us to follow our own whim, to be swept along by unruly passions, to be led astray by pleasure and desire.

…When we had been shown to be undeserving of life, his goodness was to make us worthy of it. When we had made it clear that we could not enter God's kingdom by our own power, we were to be enabled to do so by the power of God.

…The time came then for God to make known his kindness and power (how immeasurable is God's generosity and love!). He did not show hatred for us or reject us or take vengeance; instead, He was patient with us, bore with us, and in compassion took our sins upon himself; He gave his own Son as the price for our redemption, the holy one to redeem the wicked, the sinless one to redeem sinners, the just one to redeem the unjust, the incorruptible one to redeem the corruptible, the immortal one to redeem mortals. For what else could have covered our sins but his sinlessness? Where else could we - wicked and sinful as were – have found the means of holiness except in the Son of God alone?

How wonderful a transformation, how mysterious a design, how inconceivable a blessing! The wickedness of the many is covered up in the holy One, and the holiness of One sanctifies many sinners. (*December 18, Office of Readings, from a letter to Diognetus*)

"For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."