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### Why is Mercy a Restart for Life?

When I think of mercy, I often think of forgiveness. The media sees it as the object of affection which people will go on their knees for. But what the church sees it as is an opportunity to restart a life. Mercy is not as simple as pushing a huge restart button. It is the compassion that God feels for us that helps us better our lives. The ultimate goal of life on earth is to get to heaven. I believe that God puts us on earth to truly see if we want to be with him in heaven. To prove to him that we want to be with him in heaven, we need to follow his rules. But every now and then, humans tend to make mistakes. We tend to not follow his rules, stray from the church, and in some cases, doubt God's love for us. In most situations, we turn back to the church for help. We recognize what we have done and the consequences of the action. In all cases, the consequence of sin is a weakened relationship with a loving God. This tends to make us feel sorry and impure. We feel the need to beg for forgiveness. And every single time, we truly ask for forgiveness from God, he will grant us mercy. Even though, God can spite us and disown us; he doesn't. He doesn't do this because he loves us and wants us to be with him for an eternity. Mercy is a restart for life because it allows us to follow God and his church again without any guilt or impurities.

Mercy has crept up on me in my life when I least expected it. It all started when my mom got a new job with a non-for-profit in Bridgeport, CT. I had not exactly realized what it was for, but I was happy for my mom. At the time, I was a snobby, little sixth-grader that did not really appreciate life. I mean everything was good; I lived a good life, I went to a good school, and I

had good friends. I believe the only thing that was missing was a spiritual life, which now, I wish I had then. I went to church every Sunday with my family, but I did not truly pay attention. One day, I did not want to go to school, so instead, I went with my mom to work. I had no idea what my mom did for work or how my life would change. My mom works for Caroline House which is run by the school sisters of Notre Dame. These nuns give up their lives to serve God and to help his people. At Caroline House, the nuns teach poor immigrant women the English language. This drastically changes their lives because they can take their newly acquired skills to go get jobs to help support their families. When I was there for the first time, I saw their situations. Some walked a few miles every day after dropping their children after school. I realized how privileged I was at that moment. I realized that I should thank God for all that I had. I also realized that I had to be closer to God. I felt that I had to repent to God because I was not as spiritual as I should have been and I had not realized what I could do in my community. After I repented, I felt like I had a fresh start in life where I could follow a path that God wanted me to follow. With my fresh start in life, I started to pay attention in church and become more spiritual. I prayed more and I helped out in my community, especially with Caroline House. I feel like mercy led me to lead a better life.

Mercy lets us lead a better life because it provides a fresh start. It is up to us what we can do with this fresh start. I personally used it to connect with the church more and to help out more in the community. What is great with the church, whenever we stray away, the church is always right there to help us. The church is a constant in life, it is always there no matter the circumstance. I only hope that more people realize the bad that they have done and repent. When

they repent, they receive God's mercy which allows them to start that new life. The Church serves as a spiritual defibrillator that renews a kindling relationship with God.