

There's a story about some tourists in Germany who park their car, and take note of the street sign where they're parked, only to get lost trying to find their car later in the day.

They end up talking to a policeman, who asks what was the name of the street they parked on ... to which they reply: "Eingangstraße."

At which point the police officer begins laughing.

The street sign they thought was the name of the street read: "One way street."

In today's Gospel reading, St. Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive.

Peter is concerned with the quantity of mercy; whereas Jesus is more concerned with the quality of mercy.

Too often - and perhaps it's human nature - we consider mercy and forgiveness to be a "one-way-street."

Mercy is something we desire, but it's something that we ration out without much generosity to others.

If we apply love, mercy, and forgiveness only to ourselves - and not to others ... we're like the tourists looking for our car on "Eingangstraße" ... that is - we're lost.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus clearly says: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will know mercy." And elsewhere in the Gospels says: "For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you."

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us resolve to get off of the "one way street" in regards to love and mercy and forgiveness, and apply these in both directions - even in situations where it might be difficult or even hurt a bit. Let us forget about the quantity of mercy ... of love ... of forgiveness, and rather live with a higher quality of mercy ... of love ... and forgiveness in our daily lives.