1. **Romans 15:14-21**

* Reflect on **verse 14**, what does it say to you about this community Paul is addressing?
* **Catechism 1868, 2447**
* Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (<https://tinyurl.com/bdru95f9>)

**Spiritual Works of Mercy**

To instruct the ignorant

To counsel the doubtful

To admonish the sinner

To forgive injuries

To comfort the sorrowful

To bear wrongs patiently

To pray for the living and the dead

**Corporal Works of Mercy**

To feed the hungry

To give drink to the thirsty

To give alms to the poor

To shelter the homeless

To visit the sick

To visit the imprisoned

To bury the dead

* Which Spiritual Work of Mercy do you see present in **Romans 15:14**?
* What are your thoughts about fulfilling this Work of Mercy?
* What might be the “priestly service” Paul is speaking about here in **verse 16**?
* What is the “offering” that Paul speaks of?
* Name a purpose of Paul’s “priestly service” that stands out to you from this entire reading?
* **St. Chrysostom** (347 – 407 A.D.) *Homilies on Romans 29*

“For after his abundant proof of his statements, he draws his discourse to a loftier tone, not speaking of mere service, as in the beginning, but of service and priestly ministering. For to me this is a priesthood, this preaching and declaring. This is the sacrifice I bring. Now no one will find fault with a priest, for being anxious to offer the sacrifice without blemish. And he says this at once to elevate their thoughts, and show them that they are a sacrifice, and in apology for his own part in the matter, because he was appointed to this office. For my knife, he says, is the Gospel, the word of the preaching. And the cause is not that I may be glorified, not that I may appear conspicuous, but that the offering up of the Gentiles may be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

That is, that the souls of those that are taught by me, may be accepted. For it was not so much to honor me, that God led me to this pitch, as out of a concern for you. And how are they to become acceptable? In the Holy Spirit. For there is need not only of faith, but also of a **spiritual way of life**, that we may keep the Spirit that was given once for all.”

* Reflect on **St. Chrysostom’s** commentary here and share a thought or two about its relation to today’s study.
* **Isaiah 52:6-15**
* Paul quotes a verse from this chapter in **Isaiah**, which verse did he quote?
* What message do you believe Paul trying to convey by quoting it?
* What does this quote in **Isaiah** say to you?
* Please share a thought or two that came to mind during today’s study.