

## DID YOU KNOW BY DEACON AL

### **FORGIVENESS**

In forgiving others, we sometimes struggle because we are hurt by them. At one time I found it easier to forgive others than to forgive myself, and then this happened to me. One night after fixing a car that belongs to a friend (a priest) we were sitting by the campfire in the dark talking about God and forgiveness. I told him it is easier to forgive others but I have a hard time forgiving myself. Then he turned and said to me in a stern but gentle voice, "Who are you? Are you greater than our Lord Jesus Christ, who died on that cross for the forgiveness of your sins? Are you greater than He?" I thought in fear and said, "Oh no, I am nowhere close to Jesus in that respect. I can't even compare myself to Him." It hit me like a ton of bricks. If God can forgive me, why can't I forgive myself? I felt like the Holy Spirit himself was speaking to me through my friend. Sometimes things just need to be put into perspective. Do you struggle with forgiving others? Do you struggle to forgive yourself?