

Week Three Works of Mercy

Mercy is born into this through the selfless works of an open and compassionate heart. For it is in a heart such as this that God can move and work and have His love be brought forth into the world. It is through our works of mercy that God is able to reach out to caress those who are victims of indifference and who suffer through the hardships of life.

“A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.” Pope Francis

A work of mercy is simply an act of love. No matter what form it may manifest itself, a work of mercy is the greatest expression of love. Mercy is the greatest form of love because it requires self-sacrifice and the total giving of one's heart. Even in a small act of mercy, we must put ourselves aside and become selfless toward others.

So, one might ask how then are we as a parish and we as individuals called to live out this Jubilee Year of Mercy? “Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a visitor, a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination...everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also the goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice.” MC*14 This year is to be a pilgrimage for all of us, as individuals and together as the Church. We are journeying deeper into our faith and our understanding of the full reality and magnitude of God's mercy. We are called to the “experience of opening our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society: fringes modern society creates.” MC*15 We are to reach out, as Mother Teresa says: “To the poorest of the poor”, to those who have been outcast by society and ultimately our indifference. Those who feel they are unwanted, unloved, rejected and misunderstood, these our sisters and brothers are just that: ‘Our Sisters and Brothers’ to whom we are to be Christ. “During this Jubilee, the Church will be called even more to heal the wounds, to assuage them with the oil of consolation, to bind them with mercy and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care.” MC*15

**Misericordia Vultus (The Face of Mercy) Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*

Jesus, through Your public ministry You expressed the Mercy of our Father in every word that You spoke, in every healing touch, in every conversation. When You listen, you listen with Mercy. Teach me, to live as You have lived. May Your example of Mercy become my inspiration for living each and every day. Show me in my life where I have failed to express Mercy, that I might learn how to better express Mercy in the future. Through the example of the Saints and those around me who live authentically, may I become a vehicle of Mercy, that is never afraid or too prideful to live Mercy as if it were the blood that courses through my veins. For You O Lord, no act of Mercy was ever too small or insignificant, because it was love. Grant that I may fully realize that no act of Mercy is ever too small or insignificant, when You are loving through me. AMEN