

## Nine Week Novena For Mercy

### Week Five Mercy Within Suffering

A light is seen amidst the fog and freezing mist  
Small and dim yet still it penetrates the darkness  
It carries with it a message that consists of but one single word...hope  
The reality of the violent storm and raging seas.  
The bone piercing thunder and the endless madding of darkness, made  
only worse by sudden fits of lighting, is but a distant memory with the  
glimpse of this small and seemly fragile light. And weak though it may  
seem, it is strong enough to diffuse the darkest of nights.

We all have known suffering in our lives, whether it's physical, emotional or spiritual. Suffering has plagued our lives and left us wondering why? Suffering is something that we shall never be able to fully explain or comprehend. What is truly amazing is that in spite of suffering, be it great or subtle, peace can be found and mercy can prevail. We all have been witness to someone who has obtained peace amidst suffering. We wonder how they are able to do this? I claim that we will never be able to do the same. God does not abandon those who are suffering, even if we cannot feel His presence; God is so very close to us in our suffering. And it is when we are able to be open to His presence in our suffering that we are able to find peace and experience the great wonder and power of His mercy.

**“The greatest facet of mercy can only be revealed through suffering.” Unknown**

Though it may seem that light is far away and impossible to be found...even in the middle of the ocean on the darkest of nights, lights shine upon every shore. Though they may be out of sight they shine just as bright whether we are aware of them or not. Just as the sun and stars continue to shine though they may be covered by the clouds of life. So too, is mercy a light that shines never to die and never to doubt. Even though the storms of life may rage and mercy be far from view, like the sun that eventually breaks free from the clouds, the light of its embrace blinds us at first sight and enfolds us in the warmth of its richness and fullness of life.

**“The poor, even the poor in health, are a richness for the Church.” Pope Francis**

*Father of mercy,*

*grant that I may be able to recognize the sufferings of others, so that I can reflect Your love and bring Your mercy to those who are in need...*

*Grant to me the humility to allow others to be Christ to me...*

*Help us to see that in walking with one another in suffering, we are walking with You...*

*The fullest reality of the Church is witnessed in the compassion, care, and tenderness of those who are merciful...*

*Mercy is not bought, sold, traded or won...*

*Mercy is born out of Your love for us and our love for each other...*

*Mercy is found in suffering because love is expressed and experienced...*

*Nothing is greater than love...not suffering, indifference or even death...*

*Mercy is the infinite expression of Your love and may it forever be the expression of my heart. AMEN*