

Dear Friends in Christ,

We find in chapter twenty-five of Matthew's gospel Jesus' call to perform the Works of Mercy—to feed the hungry, to visit the sick and imprisoned, to clothe the naked....During these past nine months as Director of Ministry of Care, I have come to experience these works of mercy in a whole new light. I have the privilege to minister with forty-seven other dedicated Ministers of Care visiting, praying with and bringing communion to the sick and the homebound. After twenty-three years ministering to children in schools and in religious education, to now minister to those at the other end of the age spectrum has been truly a gift from God. As my parents began to age, became ill and eventually passed away, I became more attentive to the sick and elderly. I would often see my parents' faces in these people. Perhaps you have had that experience as well. The sick and the elderly who are a part of my ministry of care have truly given me more than I have received. They have brought me the gifts of their patience, their deep trust and faith along with their wisdom and experience. My fellow Ministers of Care would, I am sure, agree with me on this. That is why we love what we do. It is a labor of love because it is here that we encounter the face of Jesus in those who need our help.

Perhaps during this Lenten season, Jesus may be inviting you to bring His peace, His love, His Body to the sick and the homebound. If so, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office if you are interested in such a ministry. Maybe you are being called to another ministry... but whatever the ministry, the call is always there—"I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was in prison and you visited me...for what you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did to me." How will you respond to that call?

Peace and all good,

Sister Mary Barbara Hassler osf

Director of Ministry of Care