



Minute of Mercy

SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

When we fall into sin, we often do not consider the ripple effect it has on others and ourselves. First and foremost, we create a greater separation between God and ourselves. This is the effect of original sin, when through disobedience we chose to do our own will rather than His. In His mercy, we were given the gift of baptism, which washes away that original sin. However, we are still plagued by concupiscence, a state in that leaves our souls weakened to the temptations of the evil one.

By our offending and hurting others, we, in turn hurt and offend God. Think of the parent of a child who was bullied by another. It simply breaks their hearts to see their child suffer on account of another's sinful ways. We hurt others in many ways, many that we never realize but will know when we are called to final account. The tongue can be the most egregious and wicked. We can diminish someone's self-esteem by a tongue that is not controlled and prudent of thought. We are all guilty of this at one time or another. These offenses separate us from the grace of God. If repeated often enough without confessing one's sins, we become numb to the sins we commit. In addition, anger and hatred build to a point when control of our actions becomes non-existent and we simply act upon others in violence in total disregard of others to satisfy our own selfish passions. This is a result of our moving away from God and His grace because of our pride and disobedience. But in His bountiful infinite mercy, God has given us the remedy to work. Jesus established His Church here on earth as an unending fountain of graces through the sacraments. We must only to seek refuge in these gifts to help us every day to combat our sins and overcome them.

In our times with such an increase in violence, let us remember to pray for all victims of violent crime and their families to find the peace they desperately need which comes through their willingness to forgive those who have perpetrated harm on them. Their healing depends on our prayers for them in their trials. Our prayers for them is truly an act of mercy!

Mercy in Action

This week's Mercy in Action is for all of St. Peter Parish to pray for victims of crime and their families. Attend a special Mass for victims of crime and their families at St. Louis Cathedral on Oct 16th at 11am. See the bulletin for more details.