



Minute of Mercy

THREE DEGREES OF MERCY

The traditional works of mercy, which are found within the Catechism of the Catholic Church, are those most familiar to us. They are listed specifically as follows:

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

- 1. Instruct the ignorant*
- 2. Counsel the doubtful*
- 3. Admonish sinners*
- 4. Bear wrongs patiently*
- 5. Forgive offenses willingly*
- 6. Comfort the afflicted*
- 7. Pray for the living and the dead*

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

- 1. Feed the hungry*
- 2. Give drink to the thirsty*
- 3. Clothe the naked*
- 4. Shelter the homeless*
- 5. Comfort the sick*
- 6. Visit the imprisoned*
- 7. Bury the dead*

Jesus Himself teaches us about “The Three Degrees of Mercy” through His own words to St. Faustina, an important mystic of the 20th century, in her diary, *Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul*.

I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first – by deed, the second – by word, the third – by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays reverence to My mercy. [742]

Please visit the Year of Mercy table in the back of church for a further explanation of “The Three Degrees of Mercy” by Fr. Michael Gaitley.

Mercy in Action

This week’s ***Mercy in Action*** is for all of St. Peter Parish to reflect on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.