



Minute of Mercy

MERCY IN MARRIAGE

“As the family goes, so goes the nation, and so goes the whole world”

St. John Paul II

From the beginning, it was God’s plan for the family to mirror the Holy Trinity. The Trinity is an ongoing overflow of unconditional and self-giving love. Man is made in the image and likeness of God and should therefore strive to reflect this love of the Trinity. There is no marriage that has been so closely united to the Trinity than the Holy Family of Nazareth, for they exemplified the virtues needed to be holy.

*In today’s world, the family unit is under attack by the “culture of death.” This is due in part to the misunderstanding of marriage itself. Marriage is between one man and one woman with a vocation to serve the family. In order for marriage to thrive and grow it must have the component of what St. John Paul II expresses in **Familiaris Consortio** the gift of “total self-giving.” This is at the heart of married love that is to be offered to one another. In addition, marriage cannot alone sustain itself, but must have God as its center.*

*Mercy is imperative in marriage. We can and must exercise mercy to our spouses, through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Teresa Tomeo gives insight in her book **Intimate Graces: How Practicing the Works of Mercy Brings Out the Best in Marriage** about feeding the hungry. Often there is hunger on the part of the other spouse, a deep longing that is not known or understood by the other. While only God is the source of true joy and fulfillment, it is incumbent upon the spouse to be aware and try to serve the other in their needs.*

*Lucas Pollice also states it best in his book **Open Wide the Doors to Christ**: “The family unit is not only the Domestic Church, but also the vital cell of society on which civilization depends.”*

Mercy in Action

*This week’s **Mercy in Action** is for all of St. Peter Parish to pray for the dignity of marriage between a man and a woman, and for our families, as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family.*