



Minute of Mercy

PERSONAL CONVERSION

Personal conversion, through a personal relationship with Jesus, is a good thing, but it is much more than a one-time event in our lives. The human condition is flawed and we often fall short of our good intentions.

Our relationship with Jesus is similar to those we have with other people. It requires constant and ongoing communication, giving to one another and sacrificing for each other with the common goal of always putting the beloved's good and well being before our own. This method is to be applied to our relationship with Jesus as well, with the added worship and adoration due Him as our Lord and Savior. Prayer is one of the most efficacious ways to communicate with our Lord. And to be with Jesus at every moment, even short prayers, spontaneously spoken, are a very meaningful way to speak with our Lord; He is always at our side and hears all whether it be spoken, thought or felt. Such examples include "Come Holy Spirit," "Be with me Jesus," or even the Fatima Prayer of the Holy Rosary.

As Catholics, we could be no closer in a personal relationship with Jesus than when we consume His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. In order to do so, we must purge sin from our souls in the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that we can present ourselves in Holy Communion with our Lord as a pure offering. Many are plagued with recurring sin; and when so many do not recognize their sinful behavior, it can have a ripple effect. This fact must urge us as Catholics to pray for the conversion our brothers and sisters. Our Lord gave us a very effective prayer for achieving the conversion of sinners, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. First and foremost, we must indeed work on our own conversion as well.

Often Jesus asked St. Faustina to pray before the crucifix and say the Stations of the Cross. It is here we see what Our Lord endured for us by becoming one of us and that we, His servants, must walk this path which indeed will draw us ever closer to Our Lord.

Frequent confession is the best path to true conversion and curing ourselves of the ills that weigh our souls down from sin and discourage us. In essence, it is not in the falling but in the getting up that is most imperative.

Mercy in Action

*This week's **Mercy in Action** is for all of St. Peter Parish to pray the Prayer Before a Crucifix for personal conversion. This powerful prayer can be found in the bulletin.*