



Minute of Mercy

COMFORT THE AFFLICTED

We are so very blessed to have a newly canonized saint whose mission in life was to comfort those afflicted with heavy trials. St. Teresa of Calcutta lived every moment of her life with thoughts, prayers and actions to do just that. One may wonder, what about those who may not necessarily suffer heavy burdens nor know someone who does? Mother Teresa would say, Oh to the contrary! Part of the legacy she left us is to take a closer look around and see that in our daily lives and in our families, we have a multitude of impoverished souls longing to be comforted. In previous weeks, we have covered the importance of the work of mercy, Bury the Dead. What about the person who has experienced the death of a loved one? It is also good and virtuous to help those arranging the funeral and reception, overwhelmed with so much to do amidst their grief. It is God's way of giving us an opportunity to extend mercy. As St. John Paul II said in Dives in Misericordia, true mercy is always a two-way street, a "bi-lateral" reality, whereby both the giver and the receiver are blessed.

This action of mercy can and does extend to those who have been divorced. They too have a feeling of grief and maybe loneliness much like those who have experienced the death of a loved one. They may feel a sense of isolation, which could be debilitating for them to move on with their lives. As always, our prayers can mysteriously lift them out of their possible discouragement and give them the strength to continue their life with joy in the Lord.

Let us pray for the grace to remember those who have undergone these trials, for their burden does not last for just a day or a week, but perhaps for months or longer to come. It would do so much for them for us to remember down the road to check up on them with a visit or phone call to let them know we are thinking and praying for them and that our concern for them is truly sincere. Truly, a win, win situation for all.

Mercy in Action

This week's Mercy in Action is for all of St. Peter Parish to reach out to a widow/widower or someone who is recently divorced, perhaps with a phone call or email.