



## Minute of Mercy

### HOPE AMIDST LIFE'S TRIALS

*It is a fact that life has many burdens and trials. They come in many different forms and degrees and no one is exempt from them. As difficult as they may be, it is imperative we understand that God in His infinite wisdom allows the trials, yet tailor fashions them for each of us according to our life's vocation and our weaknesses, all to teach us His ways. We need only seek to know His ways. Trials and burdens are opportunities He grants us to prove our love and devotion to Him with the intent to always draw us closer to Him. This does not necessarily take away our trials but encourages us to keep the faith and hope in Him.*

**Hope** is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1817)

*When our hope ceases, discouragement and eventually despair occur deep within us. This lack of trust is a sin because it is contrary to God's goodness and mercy, for He is always faithful to all His promises. So what are we to do? Turn to the Holy Spirit, the giver of all good gifts, to grant the grace of hope for it is a good and right thing to do. It is prayer that will cultivate and nurture the important virtue of hope.*

*"Hope does not disappoint us, because God's **love** has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Romans 5:5)*

*Circumstances such as unemployment or underemployment can lead to despondency, discouragement, anger, and even in the most severe cases, suicidal thoughts or actions. This week let us pray for those experiencing underemployment or unemployment in hopes that in a short time they will find relief for themselves and their families.*

### Mercy in Action

*This week's Mercy in Action is for all of St. Peter Parish to reach out or pray for someone who is unemployed or underemployed.*