



Minute of Mercy

COMFORT THE SICK

***And the king will say to them in reply 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'* (Matthew 25:40)**

Pope Francis is declaring June 10-12, 2016 as a Jubilee for the Sick and Persons with Disabilities. Oddly for some, the Corporal Work of Mercy, Comfort the Sick, is one of the most avoided works of mercy. One may feel uncomfortable to be in the presence of a sick person because of our own helplessness in relieving their pain or discomfort. However, one thing to keep in our minds when visiting the sick is, it is not about our comfort level or how we feel; rather, it is about giving of ourselves to someone else's needs. We must pray for the strength and courage to be challenged and overcome the fear of being out of our comfort zone. By showing concern for the sick, we are letting them know we care about him or her, by giving our time to them as a gift of love. We've all been sick at one point or another and we know it can often be a time not only of pain and discomfort, but can also be one of isolation and loneliness. Knowing this and recalling it helps us to identify with others who are ill. This will enable us to serve them in their needs. Maybe it's as easy as a smile. Maybe tell them a story, or read to them. Certainly, praying for them will bring comfort. How valuable time is; it will make all the difference in the world. We get back so much more than what we have given.

Mercy in Action

*This week's **Mercy in Action** is for all of St. Peter Parish to visit, send a card or an email to someone who is ill; pray for the sick relatives and friends who are listed in the bulletin.*