



## Minute of Mercy

### BECOMING A SAINT

*The Church is the mystical body of Christ that is made up of three states: the Church Militant (those still here on earth), the Church Suffering (those being purified in Purgatory), and the Church Triumphant (those souls who have entered into the eternal reward of God). With Christ as her bridegroom, the Church is holy because He gave himself up to make her holy; in a sense, the Church is “the sinless one made up of sinners.” As we see in the Catechism of the Catholic Church “her holiness shines in the saints.” (867)*

*So who are the saints? As part of the Church Triumphant, a saint is the individual soul, who the Church has solemnly declared, who has practiced heroic virtue, and who has lived in fidelity to God’s grace. “The saints have always been the source and origin of renewal in the most difficult moments in the Church’s history.” (John Paul II, CL 16,3) There is a great multitude of saints since the very beginning of the Church and their lives of suffering and holiness have gained their salvation and the salvation of others. They are the souls Holy Mother Church offers to us as examples and inspiration for us to continue to lead lives of holiness.*

*One may ask, why would we want to become saints? First, it was exhorted to us as it says in Scripture: **Be holy as I am holy, or be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.** (1 Peter 1:16; Matthew 5:48) This seems quite lofty and unattainable; however, God as Father and Creator knows us better than we know ourselves. God will help us to become that which we were made to be. The key is our response to God’s invitation. He will work with us and through us in our own individual state in life. As St. Thomas Aquinas said, “grace builds on nature.” To borrow an analogy from Archbishop Fulton Sheen, if we purchased a watch, we must first read the directions the watchmaker offers, to assist us in using and setting the watch. So too, our Heavenly Father has given us directions to peace, joy, love and holiness. It is that for which we were made to be with Him eternally in heaven; just as the watch was made to keep time. If we abuse the watch, throw it in water or use it against the manufacturers’ directions, we break the watch. If we do not follow Our Lord’s teaching and do not rely on His grace, we fall deeper into brokenness and lose our way. The Author of Life designed us and made us to be **saints.***

*So the final question to all is: what are you waiting for to start your journey to becoming a saint?*

### Mercy in Action

*This week’s **Mercy in Action** is for all of St. Peter Parish to pray daily the Prayer of St. Francis for peace in the world and in our own families. This prayer can be found on our St. Peter Parish App under Prayer Library.*