



Minute of Mercy

SUFFERING

"My daughter, I want to instruct you on how you are to rescue souls through sacrifice and prayer. You will save more souls through prayer and suffering than will a missionary through his teachings and sermons alone. I want to see you as a sacrifice of living love, which only then carries weight before Me...And great will be your power for whomever you intercede. Outwardly, your sacrifice must look like this: silent, hidden, permeated with love, imbued with prayer." (Jesus to St. Faustina, Diary #1767)

As we have seen lately, be it in Orlando, Florida and Dallas, Texas, there is so much suffering in our world; it gives us a sense of being overwhelmed and helpless, not to mention frustrated. Where do we turn and what is the answer to solve these problems of pain, suffering and despair? Unfortunately, our world has succumbed to the mindset of secularism, humanism, and relativism. They have taken God out of every discourse and solution. Our society does not value the life of the unborn; therefore, all meaning and purpose of life and that of the dignity of man is reduced to mere usefulness. This gives rise to despair as they do not look to anything higher than themselves and have made themselves into their own gods. However, we Catholics have the answer in faith and know "we can do nothing without Him."

As Catholics, we know that fallen man has such an adverse reaction to pain and suffering. But we also know, this is our identity in Christ, as Christ, Himself, suffered for all. He showed us and gave meaning to suffering and its redemptive value. As Jesus said, "no servant is greater than his master." (John 13:16) To truly follow Christ we cannot avoid or dispense with suffering and in fact it is in dying to self that we live, live with joy. This is what all of our saints knew. To suffer, it did not take away the pain, but gave them joy, as in their sufferings they became more like Him. Redemptive suffering is the highest form of suffering. Our Lady of Fatima told the world, "Many souls go to hell because there is no one to sacrifice themselves and pray for them." This is the true meaning of love, supernatural love.

Let us begin to develop a love so great as to sacrifice and pray unceasingly for others as our reward from God is beyond human language.

Mercy in Action

*This week's **Mercy in Action** is for all of St. Peter Parish to reach out to someone who is suffering from depression. Resources are available on the Year of Mercy table.*