



Minute of Mercy

MERCIFUL OUTLOOK

*"If a soul does not exercise mercy somehow or other, it will not obtain My mercy on the day of judgment. Oh, if only souls knew how to gather eternal treasure for themselves, they would not be judged, for they would forestall My judgment with their mercy."
[Jesus to St. Faustina – Diary #1317]*

The quote above from St. Faustina's Diary does not reveal anything new or different that Jesus did not command us to do while He was still here on earth. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus clearly lays out His expectation of us and the reward if we are obedient or punishment if we disregard His commands. This being said, Jesus did not want to leave us, not only as orphans nor in the state of servitude, for He said, "You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father." (The term friend is used here in Greek, philos, which means, "to love").

In essence, if we truly love Jesus, we willingly want to please Him and do as He commanded. This of course means to extend love to others, as He said, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for the least brothers of mine, you did for me." [Matthew 25:41]

We must work and nurture a deeper relationship with Jesus in order that we come to know Him, not just about Him. As is often said, to know Him is to love Him. This of course always comes through prayer and working on imitating Him who is meek and humble of heart. It is in love for one another that produces the fruit of mercy. We know all the ways in which we can show mercy through Holy Mother Church's spiritual and corporal works of mercy. However, mercy can be shown in countless ways in addition to these. The simplest of gestures such as a smile or a sincere word of thanks can go much further than we could ever realize. To begin with these and make them a part of our life builds the grace of mercy within us.

Mercy in Action

*This week's **Mercy in Action** is for all of St. Peter Parish to smile more this week, especially to those who seem weary. Reflect the love of God to all.*