



Minute of Mercy

CHURCH MILITANT

The entire Holy Catholic Church, Christ's mystical body, is divided into three parts, all known as the "Communion of Saints." The Church Triumphant consists of those brethren who have completed their mission for Christ here on earth, are purified, and are enjoying the reward of the Beatific Vision of God. The Church Suffering refers to those who have completed their life here on earth and have more purification of their souls to be perfected before they receive their reward. Though they are suffering, they are assured of the promise of salvation. The third part, The Church Militant, is made up of all of us here on earth. In our journey here on earth, we have much to battle in our perseverance to attain our heavenly reward.

*What exactly is our role and mission as members of the Church Militant? We **all** have a mission and are specifically designed for our role and vocation in life. Just as the clergy have their responsibility to be good shepherds of God's flock to heal and preach, so to we are all called to be courageous, loyal and to grow in holiness. The battleground is real: it is the world; the flesh; and the devil. We daily must battle discrimination and violence caused by hatred. There is also the battle of secularism, which by definition, believes that religion should not play a role in government, education or any other public parts of society. It seems as if this battle has a real foothold on our society today; hence, the domino effect of so many other ills we now experience in life. We are like the salmon swimming upstream; but, as St. Paul has exhorted, we must fight the good fight. Our weapons are specific to our faith: prayer, especially the Rosary; the Sacraments, that Christ offers to us through the Church to give us strength to continue the fight; and sacrifice.*

As Catholics, we have reason for our hope. Yes, hope, because we are a people of hope; hope in the promise of the Resurrection of Our Lord through which we gain our salvation.

So, in speaking of our battle within the Church Militant, let us not forget to keep our soldiers in the armed forces in our prayers, for they are living out their role in protecting us and our freedom by risking their lives to combat the evil that surrounds us. In gratitude, let us remember to show our appreciation by donating to them in any way we can.

Mercy in Action

This week's Mercy in Action is for all of St. Peter Parish to pray for all those who serve in the military, including those listed in our bulletin. Please see the Year of Mercy table for websites about various ways to send supplies or cards to the military.